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ON THE COVER: The bird of the year in Texas was this White-crested Elaenia found on South Padre Island, Cameron County by Dan and Honey Jones on 9 February 2008—a first record for the United States. It was still present the following day, when additional photographs were obtained (here) as well as audio recordings. Examination of those details suggest that this bird was of the migratory southern population, *Elaenia albiceps chilensis*. Photograph by Erik Breden.



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Yellow Rail. Photograph by David E. Quady. See page 300.



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Jim Harris

ADVERTISING

Ken Barron

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Discovery of a presumed-lost specimen of Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) from Louisiana, with comments on the dispersal abilities of anis

J. V. REMSEN, JR. • MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE AND DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES • LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70776 • (NAJAMES@LSU.EDU)

PAUL R. SWEET • DEPARTMENT OF ORNITHOLOGY • AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024



Figure 1. Specimen (AMNH 793532) of Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) from Louisiana. Photograph by Margaret Hart.

Abstract

Twenty years ago, Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) was removed from the official list of birds known from Louisiana because the specimen on which the original record was based had been presumed lost, and its identification could not be corroborated. Furthermore, the natural occurrence of the species in Louisiana seemed highly unlikely. We rediscovered the lost specimen and confirmed the identification and the authenticity of the specimen. We summarize evidence that all three species of anis exhibit patterns of dispersal that are unexpected given their short, rounded wings and generally nonmigratory behavior.

History

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) was included in the list of species officially known

from Louisiana by Lowery (1974) based on a specimen from Diamond (Mississippi River delta in Plaquemines Parish) taken by H. L. Ballowe, a resident of Buras (near Diamond), in "midsummer" 1893 (Beyer et al. 1908). Ballowe lived for many years in Buras and sent the specimen to George E. Beyer (Arthur 1931), one of Louisiana's first resident professional ornithologists. The renowned Harry C. Oberholser subsequently published the precise date of the specimen (18 July 1893) and confirmed its identification, presumably having seen the skin (Oberholser 1938).

Although Lowery (1974) included the species on the official roster of birds known from Louisiana, he noted that the specimen was supposedly in the collection at Tulane University but evidently lost. Further, Ballowe reported seeing about 20 more Smooth-

billed Anis in winter between 1893-1929 but never reported any Groove-billed Anis (*C. sulcirostris*), a very similar species documented on many occasions in the lower Mississippi River delta, including during that time period (Arthur 1931). No verifiable record of Smooth-billed has been obtained subsequently in Louisiana. Smooth-billed Ani does not have much of a track record as a disperser, and the nearest populations, in southern Florida, may not have become established there until the early decades of the twentieth century (Roberston and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994), long after the Louisiana specimen was collected.

Together, these doubts led the Louisiana Ornithological Society's Bird Records Committee to remove Smooth-billed Ani from the official state list (Schulenberg 1988), and this decision has been followed elsewhere in synopses of the species' distribution (e.g., A.O.U. 1998).

The lost specimen

In 2007, Remsen noticed that the recently available computerized holdings of the bird collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) listed a specimen of *C. ani* from Louisiana (Figure 1). Assuming this to be an error, Remsen contacted Sweet, who then found that the specimen label matched the detail above for Ballowe's "lost" specimen from Diamond (Figure 2). It had been given to AMNH in November 1969 by "Texas Technical College" (now Texas Tech University); M. K. Rylander's (e.g., Rylander 1967) connection to both institutions provides a possible clue as to how a specimen from Tulane University could end up at Texas Tech.

We confirmed the identification of the specimen (AMNH 793532), which is indeed a Smooth-billed Ani. In addition to the absence of the grooves on the bill typical of *C. sulcirostris*, it shows the typical bill shape and form (Mlodinow and Karlson 1999) with respect to the prominently arched culmen that curves slightly downward as it approaches the

forehead as well as the thick gonys on the lower mandible that results in the lower mandible being narrower basally than distally. The abrupt decurvature at the distal end of the mandible is unlike Groove-billed's gradual curvature (Quinn and Startek-Foote 2000). Therefore, we consider the specimen as definitive documentation of the species' occurrence in Louisiana. The plumage on the neck and back is not in good condition, and so we were unable to assess whether the specimen showed the subtle differences between the two species in coloration there (*C. ani* has slightly broader, greener, less bronzy streaking on those feathers than does *C. sulcirostris*; Balch 1979).

Anis as dispersers

A factor contributing to skepticism over the validity of Louisiana's record of Smooth-billed Ani is that this species is generally nonmigratory and that its apparent flight abilities make it an unlikely candidate for a long-distance vagrant. With its relatively short, rounded wings, this species typically flies no more than a few meters a time, typically not much above the vegetation layer. Hilty (2003) described the flight as "weak and barely utilitarian, typically a few quick flaps and a wobbly sail as members of a group straggle across an opening."

Despite its seemingly low potential for moving long distances, the species has previously been recorded as a vagrant in North America from North Carolina (Pearson et al. 1942), South Carolina (Dick 1983, Post and Gauthreaux 1989), and Ohio (McLean 1995, McLean et al. 1995), i.e., up to 1400 km north of its breeding range. A specimen taken near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by John Krider sometime in the mid-1800s (ANSP 24271)

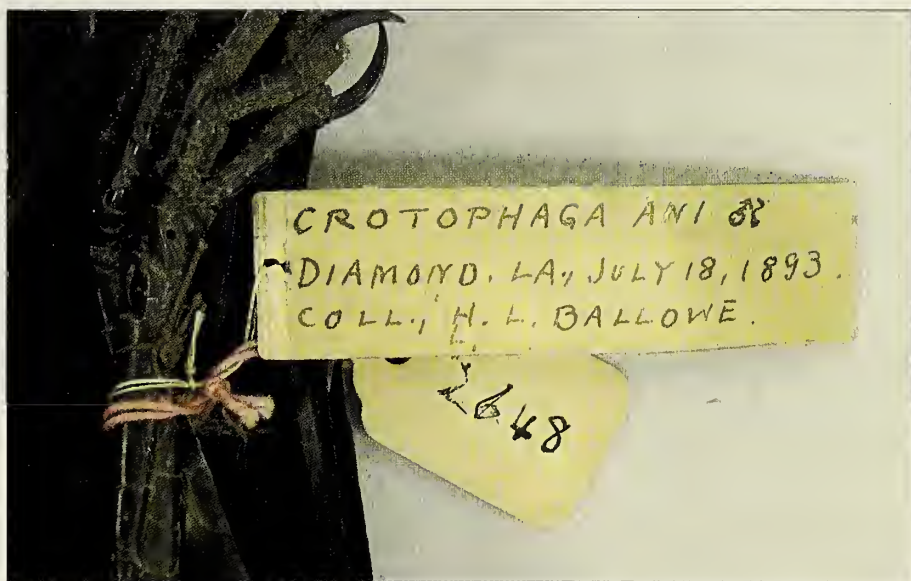


Figure 2. Specimen label (AMNH 793532) of Smooth-billed Ani (*Cratophaga ani*) from Louisiana. Photograph by Margaret Hart.

eral sources have reported it as September 1849 (Turnbull 1869, Warren 1890; details of this record based on ms. by Keith Russell).

Smooth-billed Ani's distribution, and lack of geographic variation, suggest excellent dispersal ability. It is found on most islands in the Caribbean, including relatively isolated Isla Providencia, the Cayman Islands, Isla Cozumel, and Isla San Andrés (Howell and Webb 1995, A.O.U. 1998, Raffaele et al. 1998), as well as on Isla Coiba off the Pacific Coast of Panama (Wetmore 1968). The population on the Galapagos Islands is generally considered to have been introduced by humans (to control grasshoppers), although subsequent dispersal among the islands may have occurred naturally; see discussion in Grant

also reported "frequent occurrences" on the Dry Tortugas, where it is not resident, and this would suggest regular overwater movements. Anecdotal information suggests that the status of the species on some of the smaller, near-shore islands in the Caribbean is irregular and fueled by periodic invasions (Howell and Webb 1995, Raffaele et al. 1998). On rare occasions, observers in the Greater Antilles have seen Smooth-billed Anis perform overwater flights to small nearshore islands or flights at about 100 meters' altitude (Figure 3).

The track record of the closely related and morphologically very similar Groove-billed Ani (*C. sulcirostris*) as a long-distance disperser is well established. Although its flight behavior is essentially identical to that of Smooth-billed Ani, Groove-billed has been recorded regularly north of the breeding range in North America, including as far north as central California, southern Nevada, northern Arizona, northern Colorado, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey, i.e., to 2000 km north of its northernmost breeding localities. See Mlodinow and Karlson's (1999) detailed tabulation of North American records beyond its limited breeding range.

The third member of the genus, Greater Ani (*C. major*), is restricted mainly to tropical South America and would seem even less likely than its congeners to make long-distance movements. However, populations at the southern limit of its range are somewhat migratory (Payne 2005). Although the record of two specimens (21 and 23 April 1960) from Tamaulipas, Mexico, has been considered to represent a relictual population (Olson 1978), another possibility, albeit much



Figure 3. Smooth-billed Ani in high, direct flight over golf course at Palmas del Mar resort, southeastern Puerto Rico, 6 April 2006. Photograph by George L. Armistead.

has long been ascribed to Petty Island, Camden County, New Jersey (Stone 1894, A.O.U. 1957) but may have been collected downriver along the Delaware River in south-central Philadelphia (Krider 1879); the exact date and year is not known with certainty, but sev-

and de Vries (1993) and Wiedenfeld (2006). Yet despite this extensive insular distribution, no geographic variation has been described. This may reflect the recency of colonization, but it also might reflect continued inter-island dispersal. Robertson and Woolfenden (1992)

more remote, is that the record represents a pulse of long-distance vagrancy (1200 km north of the nearest known breeding population). Howell and Webb (1995) considered the record hypothetical, noting that fieldwork in the area before and after the specimen records did not reveal a population.

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A specimen of Caribbean Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva* cf. *fulva*) from Missouri

DAVID A. EASTERLA • DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES • NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
800 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • MARYVILLE, MISSOURI • (EMAIL: DEASTER@NWMISSOURI.EDU)

Abstract

This paper documents a specimen record of an adult female Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), evidently of the *fulva* subspecies, at Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, on 7 October 1977, a first confirmed record for Missouri and one of few specimens of a Caribbean/Floridian bird from North America north of Florida.

Field encounter and identification

On 7 October 1977, while conducting a bird survey at the Maryville sewage lagoons, Nodaway County, Missouri, the author observed several swallows perched on a fence surrounding the lagoons. Upon closer examination, several Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) and Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were identified, plus one unidentified swallow that appeared tired. The other swallows flew, but the one remained, obviously totally exhausted. Eventually, the remaining swallow expired and was prepared as a standard museum study skin (Northwest Missouri State University Collections, NWMSUDAE 2986).

At the time, the swallow was tentatively identified as a Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), but the author had only written descriptions and no references that depicted the nominate subspecies of Cave Swallow (*P. f. fulva*) in color. The bird did not match the available color images of the northern Mexican subspecies of Cave Swallow (*P. f. pallida*), and a Missouri ornithologist who examined the specimen did not agree with the identification as Cave Swallow. Because of family commitments, science building renovations, and other distractions, the swallow specimen was stored, misplaced, and soon forgotten.

In fall 2005, when the Hurricane *Katrina* hit New Orleans and then traveled inland, some 600 Cave Swallows were reported in the southern Great Lakes—579 or more of them at Hamlin Beach, New York alone, on 4 November 2005 (Sullivan et al. 2006). The species was also reported in at least 15 eastern U.S. states and in southern Ontario after *Kat-*



Figure 1. Ventral view of Cave Swallow (*P. f. fulva*, far left) next to (middle) two adult (female left, male right) Cave Swallows (*P. f. pelodoma*) from Coahuila, Mexico, 3 July 1974, and an adult female Cliff Swallow (far right), Atchison County, Missouri, 3 June 1970. Note the darker cinnamon-rufous flanks, throat, and breast, and the dark-streaked undertail coverts on the Missouri Cave Swallow. All photographs by the author.

rina (see Dinsmore and Farnsworth 2006). At least one other hurricane, *Ivan* of 2004, has been connected to displacements of the species in the East (Sullivan and Wood 2005), and extralimital individuals have been widely reported since about 1990 (McNair and Post 2001). Collectively, these reports spurred the author to look for the "lost" unidentified swallow of 7 October 1977. Fortunately, it was located and determined to be a Cave Swallow.

Description

The specimen of the Caribbean Cave Swallow shows the following characteristics: bill and feet black; wings and tail blackish brown; forehead, chin, auriculars, cheek, throat, occiput, nape, neck, and upper breast a deep (dark) cinnamon-rufous; rump the same color but with faint, lighter feather edging; lower breast, sides, and flanks with heavy, wide cinnamon-rufous and brownish streaks; undertail coverts with very wide cinnamon-rufous to pinkish-buff and black bars/streaks; abdomen white with heavy cinnamon-rufous and cinnamon-rufous brown streaks crowding all sides (edges); crown a metallic deep (dark) bluish-black; back and scapulars a metallic deep bluish black with narrow white streaks. These markings are consistent with Caribbean Cave Swallow. The swallow was an adult female (ova below 1 mm) that weighed 17.8 grams. Of interest, on its left leg, the third digit's toenail was reversed; the reason for this condition is not known (e.g., mutation or prior injury). The study skin's measurements are: wing chord 100.67 mm; bill length from base 10.35 mm; bill length from feathers 6.55 mm; bill length from nostril 5.67 mm; bill depth 3.18 mm; tarsus length 11.25 mm (this measure is difficult to determine because of the position of dried legs); tail length 39.10 mm. These measurements are consistent with Cave Swallow; David A. Sibley (pers. comm.) reviewed color photographs of the specimen (Figures 1-4) and confirmed them to be of a Cave Swallow.

Discussion

Phenotypically, the Missouri bird fits *P. f. fulva* of the Greater Antilles and southern Florida (cf. Sibley 2000). However, the various weakly differentiated Greater Antillean populations are sometimes treated as subspecies in themselves: *fulva* only on Hispaniola and Gonaive Island; *cavicola* on Cuba and the Isle of Pines; *poeciloma* on Jamaica; and the newly described *puertoricensis* on Puerto Rico (Garrido et al. 1999). Sibley and Monroe (1990) split this entire group from the Cave Swallows of interior North America/Mexico and combine them with *citata* of the Yucatan Peninsula



Figure 2. Dorsal view of same swallows in same sequence (Cave Swallow on left). Note the darker cinnamon-rufous rump and the bluish tinged back feathers of the Cave Swallow.

la and Chiapas as Cinnamon-throated Swallow, *Petrochelidon fulva*. Garrido et al. (1999) propose the name Fulvous Swallow instead. Earlier authorities (e.g., Howard and Moore [1980]) do not recognize these Caribbean taxa as valid subspecies, but later authorities (e.g., Clements [2007]) do; however, some recent lists, such as Clements (2007) and Dickinson (2003), do not recognize the split of Cave Swallow into multiple species. Relationships among the taxa are still unclear, with *citata* for instance sometimes considered more closely related to *pallida* (Kirchman et al. 2000). Interestingly, DNA collected from two Cave Swallows at Cutler Ridge, Florida hints at gene flow with the Texas population (Kirchman et al. 2000). Clearly, much remains to be learned about the relationships among Cave Swallow populations.

If the similar *fulva*, *poeciloma*, *cavicola*, and

puertoricensis are all considered valid as subspecies, they nevertheless still may not be distinguishable in the field and possibly not distinguishable with specimen material. At this time, it is not possible to assign the Missouri specimen to one of these populations/taxa. If these taxa are considered synonyms of *fulva*, however, then the Missouri bird can be positively identified as *Petrochelidon fulva fulva*. (The small subspecies *citata* of the Yucatan Peninsula has darker auriculars and throat, as well as a paler forehead and rump than these taxa [West 1995] and so can be ruled out in the case of the Missouri bird.) Related South American taxa *rufocollaris* and *aequatorialis* are distinctly different and now widely recognized as comprising a separate species from Cave Swallow, now known as Chestnut-colored Swallow, *P. rufocollaris* (Schulenberg et al. 2007).



Figure 3. View of the same swallows' left sides in the same sequence as in previous Figures (Cave Swallow on left). Note the darker cinnamon-rufous rump and auriculars of the Missouri Cave Swallow.



Figure 4. View of the same swallows' right side in same sequence as in previous Figures (Missouri Cave Swallow on left). Note the darker nape/collar of the Missouri Cave Swallow.

Although Cave Swallow has undergone a dramatic range expansion since the mid-1980s (primarily northward) in Texas and has also colonized southwestern Louisiana as well as southern Florida (West 1995), it has not been documented in Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992, Missouri Bird Records Committee 2003). Thus, the present specimen is the first Missouri documentation for the species and furnishes the westernmost documentation for the nominate subspecies or subspecies group (West 1995). There are two Nova Scotia specimens of Caribbean Cave Swallows: 21 June 1968 on Sable Island, and 16 May 1971 on Seal Island, both identified by W. E. Godfrey as being of the Cuban subspecies *cavicola* (in litt. to Ian A. McLaren; Tufts 1986). A 23 May 1990 record of Cave Swallow at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York, New York was thought to be of the *fulva* group (Levine 1998, Guthrie and Wilson 2000). Specimens of Cave Swallow from Ontario, Virginia, Georgia, New Jersey, and elsewhere, all salvaged since 1999 and all in autumn, have proven to be *pallida*, also known as *pelodoma*, the latter name preoccupied in

the genus *Hirundo*, in which Cave Swallow has sometimes been placed.

Caribbean Cave Swallows average 10 per cent smaller than Mexican Cave Swallows (West 1995). West (1995) provides no weights for the nominate subspecies but indicates that weights for *pallida* females average 24.1 grams (2411 samples from New Mexico) and for males 24.4 grams (1977 samples from New Mexico). The adult female Cave Swallow from Missouri weighed 17.8 grams, well below averages for either sex of *pallida*, perhaps also suggesting the smaller Caribbean Cave Swallow.

No distinct weather event appears to be connected to the appearance of the Cave Swallow in Missouri. In fall 1977, Hurricane *Babe* (3-9 September), a Category One storm, made landfall in southern Louisiana, crossed Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and dissipated in South Carolina; the track of this storm thus seems very unlikely to have been associated with the appearance of the Missouri swallow, and no other storm that season made meaningful landfall in the United States (1977 Hurricane/Tropical Data for Atlantic <<http://weather.unisys.com/hurricane/atlantic>

/1977/index.html>). Most autumn Cave Swallows in eastern North America have appeared in association with fast-moving low-pressure systems that move from the southern Great Plains/Texas toward the Midwest, Middle Atlantic, or Northeast (Sullivan 2004, Sullivan and Wood 2005); however, no such system was evident prior to the appearance of the Missouri Cave Swallow. The reason for its appearance so far out of range is unknown.

Acknowledgments

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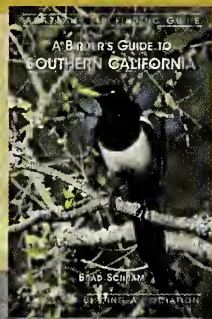
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The Changing Seasons: *Cold Enough for You?*

EDWARD S. BRINKLEY • 124 PEACH STREET • CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA 23310 • (EMAIL: THALASSOICA@GMAIL.COM)



What brightens a winter's birding more than a "super-flight" of northern finches? In winter 2007-2008, after observers had carefully identified both Common and Hoary Redpolls across much of the northeastern quadrant of the continent, they sharpened their skills still more, separating redpolls, often tentatively, at the level of subspecies. This Hoary Redpoll of the *hornemanni* subspecies (Greenland Hoary Redpoll or Hornemann's Redpoll), a big frosty thing, was nicely documented at Moncton, New Brunswick on 28 February 2008. This subspecies has been thought to be quite rare in North America, but records south to Massachusetts this season suggest that, like various geese from Greenland, it is being detected, or is visiting, more frequently in recent times. Photograph by Hank Scarth.

Old Time Winter

Writing the regional report for the Atlantic Canada, Brian Dalzell called it "an 'old time' winter, the coldest and snowiest in at least 14 years." Editors in Québec wrote that 2007-2008 was one of the most severe winters in four decades, with record snowfalls across large areas. Across Canada, New England, the northern tier of the United States, and well into the southern Midwest and Great Plains, similar reports came in of massive snowfalls, brutally cold temperatures, and minimal post-holiday birding. In some places, thaws allowed snow to melt before the next blizzard, but in other places, the snow accumulated to remarkable heights: six meters in Bathurst, New Brunswick, five and a half meters in

Québec City, five meters in Caribou, Maine. Most of New England was blanketed in snow from early December through the end of the season, at least away from the Atlantic coast, and February was said to be the wettest in 114 years of record keeping—in four of New England's six states. In coastal New England southward, the latter half of the season was actually a bit warmer than average, and some semi-hardy species toughed it out through the entire season, mostly from southern New York southward. In the southeastern quadrant of the continent, from the Carolinas to Florida and west to eastern Texas, the season was characterized as milder than average, with below-average or normal precipitation and very little snow away from upland or montane ar-

eas. The long drought that extended from Mississippi to western North Carolina was broken mostly in the latter half of winter, when precipitation increased and temperatures fell. Only southern-tier states—and notably also the southern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest—celebrated avian diversity and remarked extensively on species lingering well north of their usual winter range: most commentators east of the Mississippi and north of 36° N latitude lamented a dull season with low diversity and few surprises.

The continent's center also endured a very cold and snowy season. Peter Taylor and Rudolf Koes report wind chills in excess of -50° C in February in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with even hardy resident species

observed to suffer the effects of the intense cold. In the Western Great Lakes, Adam Byrne notes record snowfalls in southern Michigan and Wisconsin (Madison broke the "100-inch" snow total for the first time ever) and Minnesota's snowiest winter in 12 years. Both Illinois and Indiana recorded very high levels of precipitation, with some areas receiving double the average snowfall; February in Chicago was the fifth snowiest ever recorded. Robert Cecil called it "one of the nastiest winters in years in Iowa and northern Missouri," despite a brief warm-up in early January; Iowa's precipitation for the season was the second highest in 136 years. In Ohio and the southern Midwest generally, winter's grip tightened in mid- to late January, with predictable effects on waterfowl, which moved southward, and half-hardy birds, which vanished or perished.

In the West, dry conditions persisted in western Texas, but many areas in the Great Basin, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, and Montana reported good snowpack (Figure 1) and mostly moderate temperatures, though the northern Great Basin was a bit colder than average. Wyoming and Colorado were "cold and wet," alleviating extreme drought over large areas, though most of that region remains dry. Mount Crested Butte in Colorado had 10.6 m of snow over the season, a record-breaking total. In Alaska, Thede Tobish described yet another season of relatively late freeze-up and milder-than-average temperatures that allowed a variety of species to linger. Washington, Oregon, and northern California saw rather average temperatures and precipitation patterns, though eastern Washington was snowy: Spokane missed the all-time snow record, set in winter 1949-1950, by just 10 cm! The general trend of milder weather from the Rockies westward, harsher weather from the Plains eastward is a pattern familiar from several recent winter seasons.

Large-scale patterns of bird distribution from autumn 2007 continued into winter, particularly movements of mountain birds into the lowlands in the West: Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Steller's Jay, Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Siskin, locally a few Clark's Nutcrackers (North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas) and Lewis's Woodpeckers, and all three western nuthatches continued to pop up in unexpected locations or numbers. A movement of Green Jays into the Texas Hill Country continued the northward march of species associated with the Rio Grande Valley, and hummingbirds and orioles were among the gaudy

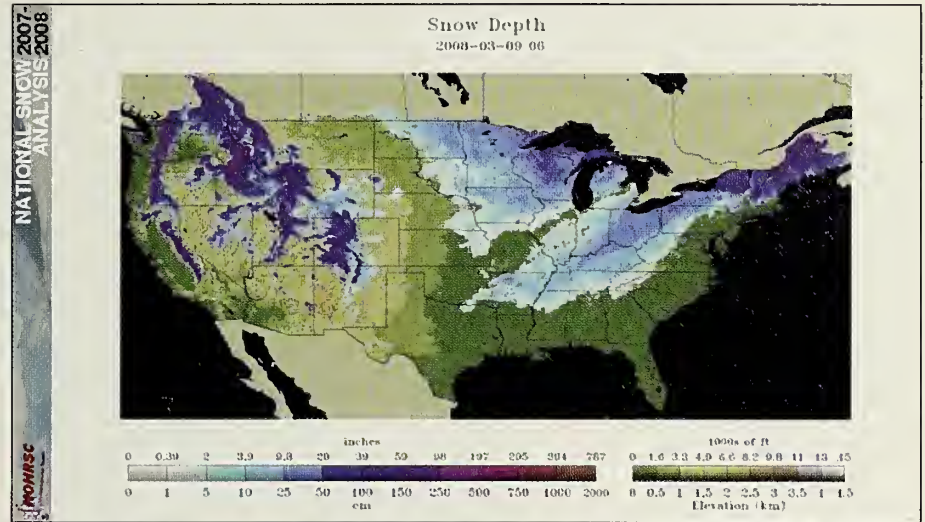


Figure 1. This graphic illustrates snow depths in the Lower 48 United States at the end of winter (9 March 2008); the season saw heavy snowfall in the Rockies and Cascades, as well as in the Upper Midwest, New England, and northern New York. Although cold, snowy weather does not appear to be associated with influxes of most bird species south of typical range, freezing of lakes can cause exoduses of waterfowl, loons, and grebes, and very heavy snow cover sometimes forces blackbirds, longspurs, larks, and other field-foraging birds to make facultative movements away from snowy regions. Map courtesy of and © the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

nectivores north of normal, especially, but not solely in the Southeast—Streak-backed Oriole in Colorado, Scott's Oriole in New York City, Green-breasted Mango in Georgia.

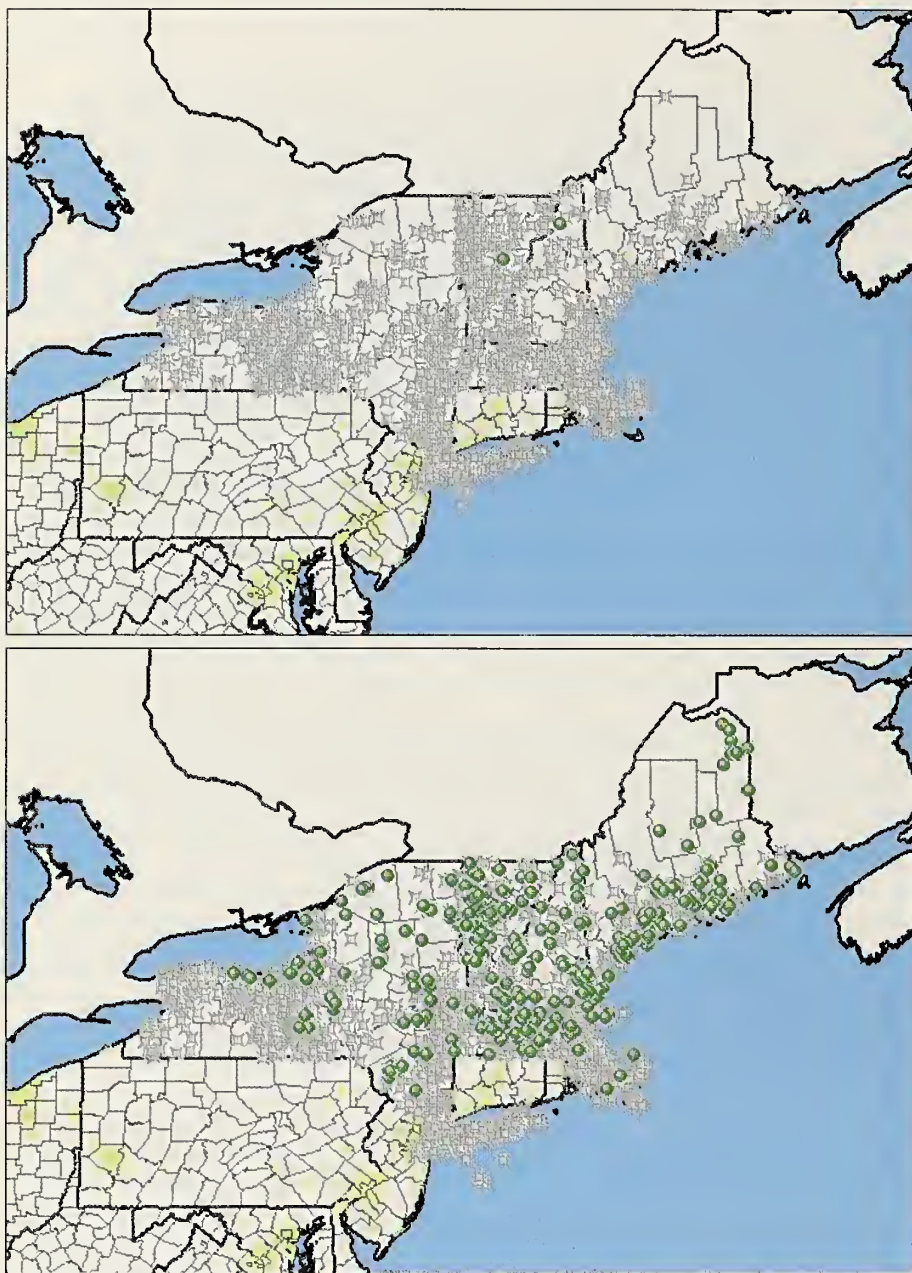
What's good for the goose

Now that most of our regional reports begin with whistling-ducks and geese rather than loons and grebes, the prominence of waterfowl seems to have risen over the past few years. Or is it that we have become more attentive to our local waterfowl throngs, teasing out vagrants, distinguishing subspecies, hypothesizing hybrids? I can remember a time not long ago when a bright male Eurasian Wigeon or a single Ross's Goose would be the cherry on top of a birding sundae; but in recent years, the shift toward greater subtlety in birding prizes a female Eurasian Wigeon or even a hybrid wigeon, or a state high count of Ross's Geese! Nowhere are these trends more evident than on the Pacific coast, particularly in the Northwest, and in the Northeast, where scrutiny of goose flocks now perhaps exceeds even attention to summer shorebird flocks.

Part of the reason for the ramped-up enthusiasm must be the birds themselves: goose populations, at least for most taxa, are surely higher now than in any of our lifetimes. Expanding and increasing populations mean several things: greater chances of encountering a stray (see the discussion of Baikal Teal in the Oregon & Washington report) and probably greater chances of hybridization: it would not surprise me to learn that hybrid

wigeon, for instance, are home-grown right here in North America (but then, male ducks don't stick around to dote on ducklings, and even if they did, we'd need Maury Povich to sort out paternity). Another reason for the spike in birder attention, perhaps, is that we've relaxed a little, even unclenched. Twenty years ago, it was routine in some quarters of the birding community to cast doubt on any vagrant duck, goose, or swan with a single phrase: "origin uncertain." (A previous editor of this journal was wont to point out that their origin was always certain: an egg. It was provenance that was in question.) Now, with excellent data on waterfowl populations, even from remote Arctic breeding stations and stopover sites, we see the picture more clearly, and we can begin distinguishing birds that are more likely to have escaped captivity from birds that are more likely wild vagrants. And with so many observers canvassing waterfowl, we have come to see patterns more clearly, particularly in those species whose numbers are increasing.

Where just a few years ago, we were apt to wring our hands over the provenance of a Barnacle Goose or two, we now find a dozen or more per season in North America, most of them probably wild birds. This season, there were four in New Jersey, two each in New York and Connecticut, one each in Massachusetts and Virginia—and one in New Mexico. It will be interesting to see whether the scattering of reports of Barnacles in the West continues to strengthen into a pattern such as



Figures 2, 3. Reports to eBird of Pine Grosbeak in Maine, New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire in winter 2006-2007 (upper, Figure 2) and winter 2007-2008 (lower, Figure 3). Maps such as these can be generated by users of eBird; they show presence (green dot) as well as absence (indicating checklists submitted that did not have the relevant species). More specific data can be mined through the maps or other features. Figures produced by eBird (www.ebird.org).

we've seen in other species that nest very near to North America, whether in Greenland or Iceland (e.g., Lesser Black-backed Gull—Nevada had its first!), with a gradual increase in records west of the Mississippi River. The continued increase in Barnacle Goose reports fits in the context of increases in numbers of Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese in the East (double-digit flocks in New York and North Carolina, six in Ontario)—and also in the context of a very recent pattern shown by

the much rarer Pink-footed Goose, two of which were found in New York this season.

Cackling Goose, after the 2006 split from Canada Goose, is arguably the new Ross's Goose in the East, and the post-split attention to this suddenly prized bird has been both welcome and predictable. Virtually every state east of the Mississippi has discovered that Richardson's Cackling Goose is a regular visitor in small numbers; meanwhile, western states, including many in Mexico, are seeing

Cackling Geese expand in number and into new areas, sorting out the status and distribution of the westerly subspecies, and discovering some Richardson's as well. Like Ross's Goose and Barnacle Goose, Cackling has gone quickly from a "boldface" rarity on the Atlantic coast to a bird summarized with minimal details in some regions. But it doesn't take a split to generate interest, as students of that enigmatic small goose Brant have shown. If you're a western birder, you might get hooked on seeing your first "Gray-bellied Brant" in Washington and trying to puzzle out how best to distinguish one if you see it farther south, out of usual wintering areas. If you're an eastern birder, it might begin with finding your first Black Brant bobbing among their brethren, then looking for another....and then, perhaps, finding a bird that sort of looks....intermediate. And then, you're down a rabbit's hole from which we don't yet know the exit (but hope that further studies of breeding Brant will illuminate!). To a fan of waterfowl, and of geese in particular, being in the thick of not-quite-yet-knowing is not a bad thing: the intellectual challenge we set ourselves in trying to identify wintering geese to the level of subspecies is perhaps even greater than working out Red Crossbill types.

Forecasting finches

We've come a long way from the days when U.S. birders assumed that a bitterly cold winter in Canada would usher in flights of owls and finches: we have long known that food resources, rather than weather/climate per se, drive these irruptions south of usual range, and we have become comfortable with predicting flights of some northern species, such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, which shows roughly biennial pattern and which was switched "on" across much of the continent this season, including across much of the West. Other species are far less regular in their movements, and divining their appearances well south of typical winter range has been more art than science—until fairly recently, that is. The increasingly nuanced Internet-posted forecasts of the "winter finch" and even "northern owl" flights compiled each autumn are eagerly awaited, particularly in the United States, where boreal forest species are generally rarer than in southern Canada. Again this season, Ron Pittaway of Ontario Field Naturalists (<http://ca.geocities.com/larry.neily@rogers.com/pittaway-old.htm>) prepared a forecast with the theme "finches going in three directions," which stressed that some finches had moved, or would be moving, east-



Figure 4. In addition to the luxury of being able to study relatively uncommon "russet-plumaged" Pine Grosbeaks during the great irruption of 2007–2008, aberrant plumages were reported. This leucistic Pine Grosbeak was one of several odd color variations noted among the many thousands that invaded Canada's maritime provinces this season. This striking oddity was photographed at Quispamsis, New Brunswick on 30 January 2008. Photograph by Jim Wilson.

ward or westward and thus would not be part of the season's flights into southern Ontario or the adjacent northern United States. Pittaway and colleagues forecast a relatively quiet winter for crossbills and Pine Siskins, as these species appeared to have vacated much of Ontario during the summer, but presaged notable flights of Purple Finches, redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, and Evening Grosbeaks.

Assessing flights of "winter finches" is a staple of the winter Changing Seasons essay, but we have not yet, in these pages, checked the accuracy of the annual Finch Forecast. Let's indulge the pleasure at least once. We should keep in mind that the vast boreal forest is by no means uniform in its production of seed and that these forecasts are provided mostly for southern Canada east of the prairie provinces and west of the Atlantic provinces—and so are especially closely watched in the United States by birders who live south and southeast of the Great Lakes. In Canada, where these species nest, they are a bit less prized by local birders, and so the Québec regional report for this season states simply: "Numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Hoary Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks were fairly good in southern Québec, mostly away from

forests, where the cone crop was virtually nonexistent." Rudolf Koes and Peter Taylor, writing the Prairie Provinces report, note: "Pine and Evening Grosbeaks were in their highest numbers in southern Manitoba in years, with the latter species spilling into southern Saskatchewan." And Blake Mann's Ontario report is similar: "Pine Grosbeaks were widely reported in the south; notable reports included one at Point Pelee National Park 17 December that furnished the first report there in seven years, and a female at Sleepy Hollow 27 January that provided the first report in the Rondeau area in 27 years. Few crossbills were reported, but redpolls were numerous. [...] Pine Siskins were very scarce, especially later in the season." Score 100% for the Pittaway projection so far! From areas to the south and east, we read more and more specifics, particularly from areas where these species are rarer, to wit:

- **Pine Grosbeak**

Pittaway predicted a strong southward irruption of this handsome species "because crops on native mountain-ashes (rowan berries) are generally poor in northeastern Ontario and across the boreal forest." He noted that grosbeaks search out "crabapples and planted Eu-

ropean mountain-ash berries" as well as sunflower seeds at feeding stations.

Across northern tier of the United States through the maritime provinces, the forecast was spot-on (Figures 2, 3). "Pine Grosbeaks arrived in numbers not seen in the memories of most birders," according to Brian Dalzell in the Atlantic provinces, where flocks of 10–35 birds visited feeding stations in January and February; regrettably, many of these birds were struck by vehicles when gathering grit on roadsides. In New England, grosbeaks "staged a major flight that began in October and peaked in December," with the largest flocks topping 50 in Maine and New Hampshire, 100 in Massachusetts, and a stunning total of 107 on a single Connecticut Christmas count. A flyover at Cumberland, Rhode Island 2 December was the only one seen in that state, while Frank Rohrbacher, Dick Veit, and Bob Paxton in the Hudson–Delaware region report "a major irruption for Pine Grosbeaks. Flocks of 10–20 were common throughout northern New York, with the largest numbers in the Adirondacks, such as 170 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 30 December. A few made it to New Jersey, with the southernmost bird at Island Beach State Park 24 December."

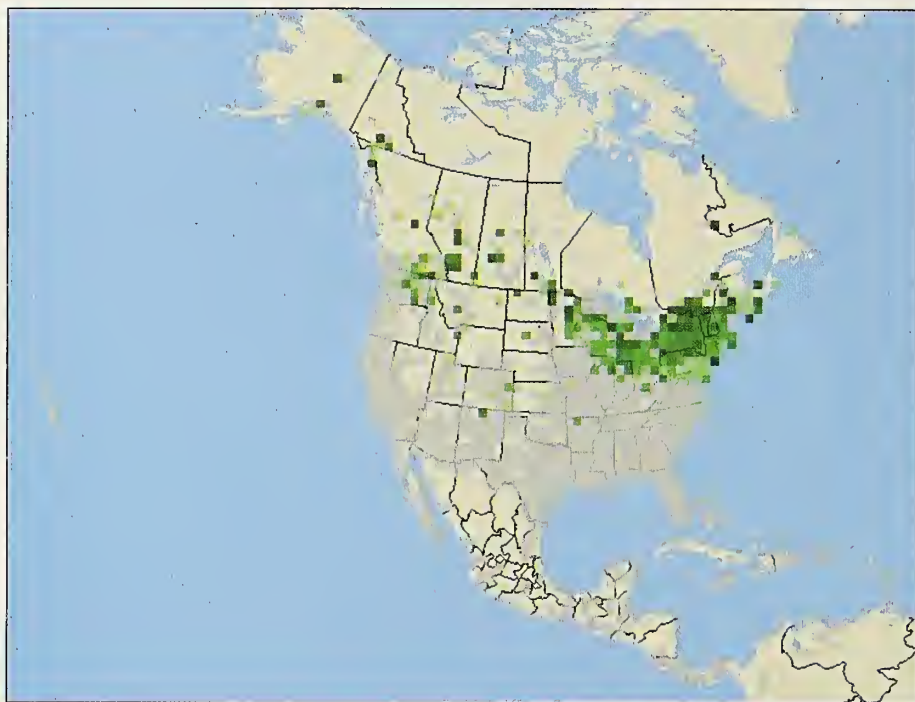


Figure 5. Common Redpoll reports to eBird in winter 2007–2008. The pattern is a “classic” one for the species, with strong clustering of records from the Great Lakes eastward through New England, a smaller cluster in the Northwest, and scattered singles in the mid-Atlantic and Great Plains. Note that eBird maps complement information in *North American Birds* in several ways: they capture reports that were not submitted to regional editors and subregional editors, and they display concretely—even down to the level of the street!—exactly where the birds were reported, thus giving both the big picture (as above) and the local details. *Figures produced by eBird (www.ebird.org).*

Just to the west, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, a female-type was found 16 January. In the southern Midwest, where very rare, up to two Pine Grosbeaks frequented Oak Openings, Ohio 21 November through 20 December. These numbers are noteworthy; lifelong birders in their fifties often exclaimed on the magnitude of this irruption. (Alas, birders in the mid-Atlantic states waited in vain for a return of this species, which has been unreported since the mid/late-1970s in most areas.) In the Western Great Lakes, where Pine Grosbeak is far less unusual, Adam Byrne reports counts of up to 100 in northern Wisconsin, indicating a flight year, but there were no mentions of the species elsewhere in the regional reports. Among the hordes were a few non-conformists (Figure 4), delighting those of us fond of aberrant plumages.

• Purple Finch

“Most Purple Finches will migrate out of Ontario this fall in response to the low seed crops. Very few or none will stay behind at feeders in southern Ontario,” according to Pittaway. And indeed, there was indeed a good flight of Purple Finches, but most of the action came in October and November, after which (as often happens) the flight appeared

to fizzle, in the East at least. One exception was a feeder in Little Compton, Rhode Island, where as many as 60 Purples gathered. South of the Great Lakes, however, the species was certainly up in numbers over the previous winter. Editors in Illinois and Indiana called Purple Finch “abundant and widespread,” with counts up to 145 in Mercer County, Illinois 21 December. One hundred twenty-nine in Tipton County, Tennessee 27 February, 100 at Union Ridge Conservation Area, Missouri 21 January, 15 near Henlyfield, Mississippi 18 December, and singles on the Louisiana coast in January indicated a strong push southward.

The real news with Purple Finch, however, came from the continent’s center and west: “good numbers” in eastern and central Texas; 520 (!) in Nebraska, with a peak count of 129 birds in two counties 29 December; an unprecedented total of 125 reported in Colorado in Wyoming (half of these documented)—Colorado had only 33 antecedent records; a record-breaking flock of 91 at Skagit Wildlife Management Area, Washington 15 December; four birds in Arizona; one in Utah; and one at Furnace Creek Ranch, California. Although the Ontario forecast was not intended to cover the continent, one could deduce that the conditions that drove Purple Finches south-

ward must have been rather widespread. The question remains: where are these birds after the early part of the winter?

• Common and Hoary Redpolls

The finch forecast: “There will be a big flight of redpolls into southern Ontario and bordering United States. Expect redpolls at bird feeders this winter.” Understatement (Figure 5)? Redpolls descended in great numbers, topping an estimated 1,000,000 birds in early January in the Atlantic provinces alone. In this region, Hoary Redpolls comprised up to five per cent of the flocks, with a dozen at one Nova Scotia feeder alone, while New York state had 30 total Hoaries, Massachusetts 25, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire 10 each, Pennsylvania eight, Connecticut four, and Rhode Island two or more. Hoary Redpolls of the nominate subspecies (from Greenland) were seen in eastern Canada, and one was in Wellfleet, Massachusetts 6 January. Common Redpolls maxed out in the high hundreds in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and at 975 in New York on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 30 December. Coastal New Jersey and Delaware had a few redpolls, but that was the southern extent of the flight on the Atlantic coast. Away from the coast, Pennsylvanians counted 225 on the Dallas C.B.C. 15 December and 250 at Milk Can Corners in February. West Virginia had but one. In January and February, as birds concentrated at feeders, a *Salmonella* outbreak was observed among both redpoll species from New Brunswick south to New York.

In this remarkable flight season, birders chatting online worked with one another to distinguish the expected Common Redpoll subspecies *flammea* from the rarer Greenland subspecies *rostrata*, which is larger and darker. Eastern Canadian birders, as far west as Ontario, reported good numbers of *rostrata*; at least six were in Massachusetts; and both Connecticut and Rhode Island had singles. Four North American redpoll subspecies (two for each species) were documented in a single backyard in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario 19 January!

The Midwest also did well with redpolls. Forty Ohio counties reported Commons, making it the strongest invasion since the winter of 1978–1979 there, and a Hoary in Holmes County was the state’s first away from Lake Erie. Record-high numbers for the month of December were recorded in Indiana, with 116 at Westville 22 December, and Illinois turned in a count of 150 at Binnie Forest Preserve 25 January. In the droves of Com-

mons, Hoaries were picked out in both states, two in Illinois (its fifth and sixth ever) and one in Indiana. In the Western Great Lakes region, large redpoll flocks included Hoaries in at least eight Michigan, six Minnesota, and three Wisconsin counties. To the south, northern Iowa had six Commons, but that seemed to be the southern extent of the flight at this longitude, excepting one in Arkansas (about the sixteenth for the state). Farther west, six reports in Nebraska, one in Kansas, 11 in Colorado, two in Utah, and one in New Mexico (the state's first!) made for an above-average season through this large swath of territory. Surprising in the northwestern sector of the Lower 48 states were Hoary Redpolls near Moscow, Idaho (one bird, the state's second) and at Muskrat Lake, Washington (two birds), the latter the state's first report in six years.

Temporal distribution of Common Redpoll during flight years often shows a peak in the middle of December through the end of the month, the period when, historically, irruptions ("flights") have seemed to reach their zenith in the northeastern United States—but also a window coincident with the Christmas Bird Count season. Nevertheless, in looking at frequency as a percentage of checklists submitted that detected the species (Figure 6), one may deduce that *dispersing* birds produced the most detections. Once redpolls settle in somewhere, whether at feeders or in remote patches in rural or unsettled areas, the number of places at which they are detected drops considerably. Perhaps such a scenario is true of Purple Finches, although they move earlier in the season—and possibly utilize feeding stations differently than redpolls. The number of reports of finches, including redpolls, over open ocean (and on Bermuda) also raises the question of how many birds perish at sea during dispersal episodes.

• Evening Grosbeak

"This grosbeak will irrupt south of the boreal forest this fall because tree seed crops are generally very poor in northeastern Ontario and western Quebec," according to the Ontario forecast. The heyday of this species in the Midwest and East was surely in the late 1950s through early 1980s, and our expectation of "flight years"—with birds in the thousands or high hundreds—should probably be revised sharply downward, as the pool of nesting birds in eastern Canada is far smaller now that it was during the outbreak of spruce budworm. Maximum counts regionally, most of them above average counts of the past decade, were 120 at Doctors Cove, Nova Scotia, 280 in

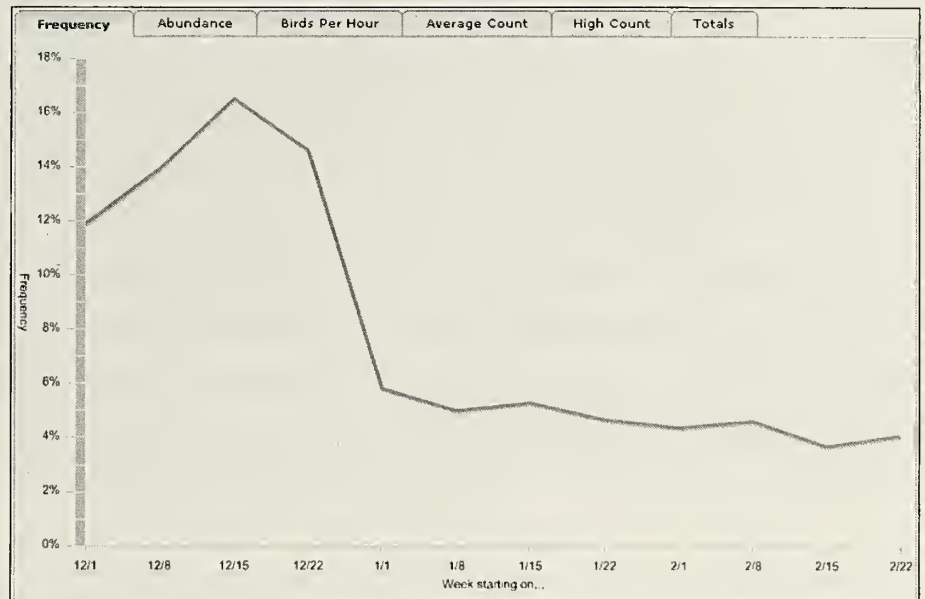


Figure 6. Frequency of Common Redpoll reports to eBird in winter 2007–2008. Figure produced by eBird (www.ebird.org).

Fulton County, New York, and 100 in Iosco County, Michigan. Connecticut birders counted 42 in all, 20 were in West Virginia's Canaan Valley, two made it to both Tennessee and Rhode Island, and one was detected in Illinois. Even with lowered expectations, it is difficult to perceive (in the data here) a truly strong flight, but maybe, in the East, hundreds represent the high mark now?

• Crossbills and Pine Siskin

As predicted, Pine Siskins were relatively scarce in most parts of southern Canada and the eastern United States, but the picture farther afield was very uneven. While most coastal states reported rather low counts, Tennessee had three counts over 150 birds and Illinois a top count of 114. Farther west, siskins blanketed the Dakotas (two counts over 1300), Nebraska, and Kansas, where 319 were banded. On current knowledge, is impossible to say whether these birds were from parts north or west, but they almost certainly did not come from the northeastern quadrant of the continent.

Even more patchily distributed were the crossbills, but there is a good reason for this, particularly with Red Crossbill, which is a complex of nine different types, each of which specializes on different cones, and the irruptions of these types are just beginning to be studied. Away from typical strongholds (a relative term, to be sure!), there were no notable concentrations of Red Crossbills reported, except in northern and eastern Texas and in coastal New England, where observers

found mostly Type 4 birds but with a few of the western Type 3 as well. The regional reports had no other information on Red Crossbill types, unfortunately; birders could contribute a great deal to ornithological understanding of their movements by making audio recordings of these fascinating birds.

White-winged Crossbill, which is apparently not polytypic, was a very different story, and to get the full flavor of the movement of this species, it is helpful to read Pittaway's full prediction:

This crossbill moves back and forth across northern coniferous forests, searching for new cone crops. Most White-winged Crossbills left Ontario this past summer. They will be scarce or absent in Ontario this winter. They presumably went west to bumper spruce and fir cone crops in Alberta and British Columbia and/or east to Atlantic Canada, which has large cone crops on spruce and balsam fir, particularly in Newfoundland and Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

The prediction hit the nail on the head. White-winged Crossbills landed in "sensational numbers" on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, where flocks of over 1500 birds were found. Brian Dalzell estimated that totals for the Atlantic provinces "must have been in the tens of thousands." One has to wonder where these birds went after the cone crops had been stripped in this maritime cul-de-sac in January. Interestingly, eight White-

wingeds were recovered from an oil rig 200 kilometers southeast of St. John's, Newfoundland in mid-January. The birds' plumage had been singed off, presumably by a gas flare. Given the regularity with which Red Crossbills from Europe reach Iceland during flight years, it is likely that offshore movements by White-winged Crossbills are not rare. (Earlier in the season, on 2 December, two Common Redpolls landed on a boat 96 kilometers off Long Island, recalling the extensive offshore flight of late December 2003.) White-wingeds were not noted in unusually high numbers elsewhere, though 80 at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania 12 December hinted at movement south of New England/New York, though there were no reports south of the Mason-Dixon line.

• Bohemian Waxwing

Almost an honorary winter finch, this sterling species has seemed difficult to predict, far more so than Cedar Waxing. "The poor crop of native mountain-ash in much of northern Ontario will cause Bohemians Waxwings to wander south and east this winter. Watch for them eating buckthorn berries and crabapples in southern Ontario. The mountain-ash crop is better west of Lake Superior, with a big crop around Kenora at Lake of the Woods."

Again, a confident prediction that bore fruit! Superlatives in this flight were not scarce. At Signal Hill, on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, 15,000 Bohemian Waxwings were counted 5 January—"the sound of their wings was compared to surf crashing on the beach," according to Dalzell. Writing for the Massachusetts *Bird Observer*, John Kricher called it the "Invasion of the Berry Snatchers." After a few flocks, some in the hundreds, were observed across northern New England in late autumn, the flight spiked in mid- to late December, with mind-blowing Christmas Bird Count totals of 830 at Cape Ann 23 December and 983 at Cape Cod the same day, and as many as 1000 in Loudon, New Hampshire on New Year's Day. Upstate New York logged monster counts, exceeding 700, Connecticut and New Jersey counted perhaps a dozen each, and Rhode Island had one—a spread very similar to that other mountain-ash lover's, Pine Grosbeak. The temporal distribution was also similar to the grosbeaks', with far fewer birds being found throughout the Northeast after early January, although 100 were at Wellfleet, on Cape Cod, as late as 23 February. Any time Bohemians reach Ocean County, New Jersey, the irruption is clearly a major event!

• Owls and Northern Shrike

In addition to predicting the waves of finches and waxings, Pittaway prognosticated about the movements of owls. "Small mammal populations were abundant this summer in northern Ontario, presumably increasing after the big seed/berry/fruit crops in 2006. However, crops this year are very poor in much of the north, partly caused by cold weather and snow in late spring that froze the buds and flowers of many plants." A boom/bust pattern in small mammals (mice and voles in particular) often spurs flights of northern owls, but not all owls irrupt uniformly, of course, as they rely on different primary prey items. "Northern Saw-whet Owl numbers are linked to red-backed voles in Ontario. There is the possibility that this vole could decline soon, because it often cycles with deer mice. The huge population of deer mice in central Ontario is declining rapidly now because of poor seed crops this summer, particularly sugar maple samaras, which they store for the winter. If red-backed vole numbers decline as they often do in association with deer mice, there will be a strong flight of Northern Saw-whet Owls this fall," Pittaway writes. Once again, the prediction was accurate, and saw-whets launched a grand southward flight in autumn 2007 (see that season's Changing Seasons essay).

Though Great Gray, Boreal, Snowy, and Northern Hawk Owls showed no appreciable movement out of Canada, beginning in early December, from southern Québec to southern Nova Scotia and south into New England, Barred Owls were seen hunting at bird feeders in back yards and in suburban areas well away from typical haunts. In the Northeast, some rehabilitators were handling 20-30 Barred Owls at a time. Pam Hunt, writing the report for New England, notes that many of the owls were young birds, probably of Canadian provenance, and must have been at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis local birds. How many of us think of Barred Owls as prone to southward flights? Tufts University is conducting studies of the birds that perished in the flight, some of them unfortunately struck by vehicles along roadsides. Perhaps the decline in deer mice spurred the flight southward?

By contrast, Northern Shrike is a well-known boreal forest irruptor, recorded now in all except the southeasternmost United States. Probably forced southward by the crash in Canada rodent populations, shrikes came up short of redpolls in Canada as well. In the Atlantic provinces, "it was the rare flock of 100 or more Common Redpolls that did not have a

shrike in tow," Dalzell writes. Christmas Bird Counts in New England tallied at least 299 Northern Shrikes, certainly near a record high count, and many of these settled into territories for the season. Although mid-Atlantic states did not enjoy such a surfeit, states just to the west did: Pennsylvania logged at least 80 from 39 counties, Illinois about 40, Indiana 18, Ohio had at least 45 (a new record), and West Virginia—which had just three documented reports before this season—found four! Farther west, "Wisconsin birders experienced one of the best Northern Shrike invasions in memory," according to Byrne, with reports from 42 counties, while North Dakotans found 63 on their Christmas counts. Farther south, Iowa had 31 reports (some reports involving multiple birds) and Missouri 12, and singles in Kentucky (its third) and Arkansas (its first ever) delimited the southern extent of the flight at this longitude. In the central and southern Great Plains, evidence of the flight included dozens in western Nebraska, five in Kansas, one in southern Oklahoma, and three in the Texas Panhandle. Typical counts came from the Southwest in New Mexico (about a dozen reports, including several of multiple birds), Arizona (four), and Southern California at Big Pine, where a single bird snacked on a goldfinch.

To conclude: we would do well to pay careful attention to the "Finch Forecast" each season! Although we want to be careful not to overstate the forecast's very modest scope, or to understate the complexity of what we call "irruptions," it is clear that scientists working in the northern forests have a nuanced understanding of the ecological relationships that give rise to mass movements, and even local movements, of birds. What a marvelous thing to see an accurate forecast, on all counts.

Gulls galore

Lovely photographs of Ivory, Ross's, Slaty-backed, Yellow-legged, and Black-tailed Gulls were submitted this season, along with good documentation on extralimital Iceland, Mew, Glaucous-winged, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Rather than tally them all here—as the concept "extralimital" is rather evanescent with this continent-crossing clan—I will leave it to the motivated reader to flip the pages, check the images, and marvel at will. In the process, you'll find vagrant loons and grebes, a leucistic Great Gray Owl, two Jack Snipe and a Baikal Teal that have seen better days, a few "hybrids" (as I often mistype), and a few undeniably glamorous creatures, including a Smcw, a Bananaquit, and our cover pin-up, the White-crested Elaenia. Happy trails!

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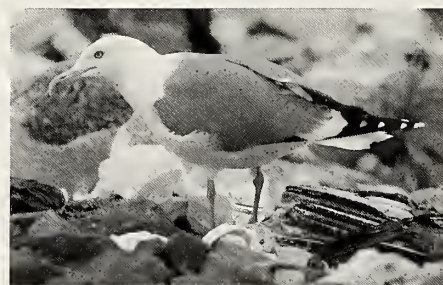
Brian Dalzell

It was an "old time" winter in the Region, being the coldest and snowiest in at least 14 years: Bathurst, New Brunswick recorded six meters of snow. After an unusually cold December, temperatures returned to a somewhat average range in later weeks, but this was little consolation, as most freshwater birds had long gone. Birders were alerted in early autumn to an impending influx of seed- and fruit-eating birds because of wide failures of their wild food crops across boreal Canada. The invasions so depleted wild seeds and berries that bird feeders became the focus of much winter birding after mid-January, and woodlands became eerily quiet. Peter Hope made a number of outings during late January in northern Queens County and southern Annapolis County, Nova Scotia and found only a few Black-capped Chickadees. In contrast, he had more than 200 birds at his feeders on 22 January. Mike Lushington in northern New Brunswick was amazed at the thoroughness of bird withdrawal from his area. The Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland was the place to be in January, with tens of thousands of Bohemian Waxwings, American Robins, and White-winged Crossbills present. Doves of Pine Grosbeaks delighted observers Regionwide, with veteran birder Stuart Tingley reporting that he could not recall similar numbers of grosbeaks in his 35 years of birding southeastern New Brunswick. Unfortunately, many were killed by vehicles while they were collecting sand and grit along rural roadsides. During a mild spell in January, a *Salmonella* outbreak was observed in southeastern New Brunswick, but the only species affected appeared to be Hoary Redpoll.

WATERFOWL

A juv. Greater White-fronted Goose was shot

at Grand Manan I., NB 4 Dec (Tracey Bagley), while another was at Ferryland, Newfoundland (hereafter, NF) 7 Dec (BMT, PL). A Cackling Goose at Starrs Pt., Kings, NS 2 Dec (Bernard Forsythe) was the only one reported. A flock of 17 Snow Geese heading southward over St. Leonard, NB 13 Jan (Roy LaPointe) furnished the first winter report for *Madawaska*. At least 10 Eurasian Wigeons wintered at St. John's, NF (BMT), with 4 others at Dartmouth, NS 8 Jan (IM). At least 230 American Wigeons were at Beacon Street Dam, Glace Bay, NS 5 Dec (George Crowell). Why they much prefer this location over warmer s. locales such as Halifax Harbor, where there were only 75 on 8 Jan (IM), is a minor mystery. Gadwalls are regular at Prince Edward I., where there were as many as 30 at South Rustico 20 Dec (TW), while 13 at Saint John, NB 24 Dec (RB) provided a good count for the province. Prince Edward I. is also the



Thought to be a returning individual, this adult Yellow-legged Gull was present in St. John's, Newfoundland from early November 2007 until April 2008 (here 13 January). The immaculate white head makes it stand out in midwinter among Herring Gulls and other large gulls, which are typically streak-headed until the end of January or later. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

preferred spot for wintering Green-winged Teal in the Region; 95% of the 35 in w. *Queens* 18 Jan were males (TW). At least 4 male Eurasian Teal wintered at St. John's, NF (BMT). Good counts of Northern Pintails included 252 on the St. John's C.B.C. 26 Dec and 23 at North Rustico Harbour, Prince Edward I. 6 Dec (Alex Gray). Four Canvasbacks that wintered at Saint John, NB provided the only report. Ring-necked Ducks are quite rare in Newfoundland, so a flock of 9 on the Avalon Pen. 10 Feb was said by Mactavish to be "unexplainable." At least 17 Tufted Ducks wintered at St. John's, NF, easily eclipsing the previous record of 12 (BMT).

Warm water from a generating station at Pictou Harbour, NS kept open the harbor and supported 4000 Great Scaup 23 Feb (KMc), while 117 others were on a salt pond near Miquelon, St. Pierre & Miquelon (hereafter, SPM) 2 Feb (LJ). About 100 Lesser Scaup winter in Halifax harbor annually (m.ob.), but 25 at Humber River Estuary,

Corner Brook, NF 16 Dec was likely the largest flock in the province. Notable concentrations of Common Eiders included 5700 off St. Pierre, SPM 26 Feb (BL), 3800 on the Cape St. Marys, NF C.B.C. 15 Dec, and thousands off Pointe-Sapin, Kent, NB 27 Jan (NB). King Eiders are easily overlooked when among so many Common Eiders, but one at Cape Tormentine, NB from 22 Dec+ (NB) was returning for at least its 3rd winter. The shallow, ice-bound shores of e. New Brunswick probably support many more Kings than are visible from land; 9 were tallied on the St. John's C.B.C. 29 Dec, 5 were at Cape Spear, NF 31 Dec (BMT), and 4 males flying northward 17 Feb (BMT) indicated that spring migration had begun. Harlequin Duck numbers continue to rebound with protection, with 150 at White Head I., Grand Manan I., NB 14 Dec (Brian Dalzell) and 62 at St. Pierre 17 Feb (BL). The best count of Long-tailed Ducks was 526 on the Miquelon C.B.C. 16 Dec, where numbers have been on the "low side" in recent years (RE). It is the impression of this long-time observer that wintering numbers have declined by 50 per cent or more over the past 25 years. Common Goldeneye also appears to be declining, but 236 on the Miquelon C.B.C. furnished a record high.

PHEASANT THROUGH RAPTORS

Ring-necked Pheasants persist at Tantramar but would doubtless become extirpated if not for indirect human assistance. During harsh winters such as this season, pheasants resort to feeders to survive, even making extensive forays into urban areas: 60 in one field at Sackville, NB 9 Dec (NB) was not considered unusual. A total of 57 Common Loons on the Miquelon C.B.C. 16 Dec was among the best in the Region. An occasional Pied-billed Grebe along the s. shore of Nova Scotia in early winter is not unusual, but 4 on the Cape Breton Highlands N.P. C.B.C. 29 Dec were notable, as were singles far e. to St. Pierre 4 Dec–2 Jan (LJ), Trepassey, NF 7 Dec (DS), and St. John's, NF 10 Dec (GH). A Western Grebe at St. Martins, NB 22 Dec (Ted Sears) was a one-hour wonder and provided about the 5th provincial report. A Sooty Shearwater off Cape Sable I., NS 9 Jan (TC) almost mirrored a sighting by the same observer in 2006. The juv. Magnificent Frigatebird, that showed up after Hurricane Noel in early Nov continued at Cow Bay, near Halifax, NS through 17 Dec (Rick Reid), furnishing the first Canadian winter report. The only American Bittern reported was at Great Village Marsh, Cumberland, NS 31 Dec (Valerie Meridith). With its many spring-fed streams, e. Prince Edward I.

is winter headquarters for Great Blue Herons in the Region; trios at Murray River 14 Jan and Rollo Bay 23 Jan (Jim Sutton) were apparently feeding on smelt. The only other concentration was 4 Great Blues at Atwoods Brook, *Shelburne*, NS 6 Jan (TC). A Great Egret was at Cape Sable I., NS 5 Dec (MN).

Turkey Vultures are now expected in small numbers in sw. Nova Scotia during winter, but there are signs of eastward expansion, with 3 that wintered in the Apple River area, *Cumberland*, NS (KS), one far e. to New Harbour, *Guysborough* 17 Dec (KMc), one at Whale Cove, Grand Manan I., NB in late Dec that tussled over a Minke Whale carcass with at least 12 Bald Eagles (*vide* Laurie Murison), and singles at Lorneville, NB 24 Jan (Karen McCavour) and St. George, NB 7 Feb (REL). It may not be too many more years before Turkey Vultures are an uncommon winter sight in New Brunswick. I do not know what to make of at least 12 reports of Ospreys from se. New Brunswick, Prince Edward I., and s. Nova Scotia Dec-early Jan—there may be confusion with Rough-legged Hawks, so such reports must be considered tentative until sufficient documentation is provided. Bald Eagles continue to recover in the Region, eclipsing their gains from 25 years ago. The two main wintering areas for eagles in Nova Scotia are Annapolis Valley and Pictou Harbour; 100 wintered at the latter site, attracted by thousands of wintering waterfowl and cattle carcasses from an active abattoir (KMc). About 30 other eagles wintered along the Saint John R. above Fredericton, NB, where they preyed on gulls attracted to a nearby

available in the form of winter finches. Cooper's Hawk was almost unknown in the Region during winter 25 years ago, but more than 20 were found this season: 15 in New Brunswick, 5 in Nova Scotia, and one on Prince Edward Island. Northern Goshawks were also reported more frequently; 3 at Miquelon I. 5 Jan (BL) were considered "rather unusual." A few juv. Broad-winged Hawks lingered into early winter, such as singles at Saint John, NB 2 Dec (RB), near Barrington, NS 5 Dec (MN), and at Port Mouton, *Queens*, NS 22 Dec (Gary Harlten). Red-tailed Hawks are fairly common in Nova Scotia; 10 between Shediac and Cape Tormentine, *Westmoreland*, NB 6 Jan (ST) was indicative of a good prey base in the se. province. Rough-legged Hawk numbers at their two primary wintering areas in the Region were 25 (15 light, 10 dark) that wintered at Tantramar (extensive reclaimed tidal marshes along the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border; m.ob.) and 11 (8 light, 3 dark) along the Saint John R. between Fredericton and Jemseg, NB 10 Dec (BS). One ad. Golden Eagle was noted at Marys Pt. at the estuary of the Petitcodiac R., NB 25 Jan (David Christie), while a juv. was at Thomasville, *Shelburne*, NS 12 Feb (Sandy Hiltz). Numbers of American Kestrels are much reduced from those as recently as 20 years ago, with the bulk then, as now, wintering in sw. Nova Scotia; 2 were at Cape Sable I. 9 Feb (MN), and one roosted in a barn at Lochaber, *Antigonish* 5 Jan (*vide* Randy Lauff). One kestrel at St. Pierre 27 Dec-5 Jan was unusual for the French Islands (LJ). Only four Gyrfalcon sightings were reported, 2 on the

SA An unusual number of Black Vultures appeared in the Region, such as singles at Canso, *Guysborough*, NS 6 Dec+ (TK), Apple River, *Cumberland*, NS 13 Dec (KS), Hampton, *Kings*, NB 5 Jan (Richard Blacquiere), and Pointe-Sapin, *Kent*, NB 27 Jan+ (Rene Vautour). Interestingly, the Pointe-Sapin bird had an injured left eye, which was also the case with at least 2 other birds seen during winter in recent years. Kavanaugh couldn't help but "feel sorry" for the Canso bird and offered it 75 pounds of meat scraps during its first day. Similarly, the Pointe-Sapin bird was dining on fresh smelt and liver within a few hours of its appearance; it likely would have perished otherwise. Photographs of the latter vulture (injured eye and all) proved that it was the vulture that spent the fall at Cape Spear, *Westmoreland*, NB (Hank Scarth). The homeowner forbade his neighbors to shoot the bird, and even thawed its food, as it would not accept frozen fare.

landfill (*vide* BS), while 2 juvs. at the mouth of the Magaguadavic R. in St. George, NB teamed to capture and drag a Common Loon out of a shrinking hole in the river ice 27 Dec (REL). Finally, an ad. Bald Eagle halfway between Goose Bay and Churchill Falls, Labrador 21 Jan (Craig Cody) likely furnished the first winter report for interior Labrador and was probably subsisting on the remains of wolf-killed Caribou from the immense George River herd.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were more common than usual, due in part to the easy pickings

Avalon Pen. and singles in Nova Scotia and at St. Jacques, *Madawaska*, NB 12 Jan (JDB) that furnished a first county report. A Peregrine Falcon at Summerside, Prince Edward I. 24 Jan (TW) was rare in the province.

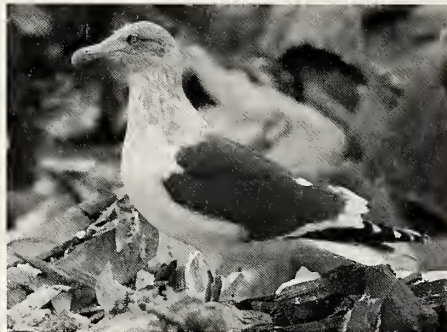
RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Virginia Rails were found nearly annually on C.B.C.s in the Halifax-Dartmouth area 10 or more years ago, but not recently, so one on the C.B.C. there 16 Dec was of note. The only Sandhill Crane reported was one in a harvested cornfield at Upper Granville, *Annapolis*, NS

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.



Two different adult Slaty-backed Gulls were photographed 13 January 2008 (here) at the dump in St. John's, Newfoundland. The individual with a small dark spot on the mandible (left) was present from early January to March and was thought to be the same individual present at the same dump for four months last winter (late November 2006 through March 2007). The other, larger bird was present for less than two weeks. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

16 Dec (Steve Hawboldt). An American Woodcock at Canso, NS 28 Feb was likely an early spring arrival (*fide* TK). A lingering Solitary Sandpiper at Brier I., NS 17 Dec (*fide* EM) was quite surprising, as was a Western Willet at Glace Bay, NS through 18 Dec (JM). The best count of Ruddy Turnstones was 9 at Pt. La Haye, NF 10 Feb (BMT). The 150 Purple Sandpipers at Cape Spear, NF 10 Jan provided a good local count (KK). By contrast, Purples are quite rare at Prince Edward I., so one at Cavendish 12 Jan (TW) was noteworthy. The only significant count of Dunlins came from Cape Sable I., NS, where 125 were found 19 Dec (MN). There were probably 2 Yellow-legged Gulls at St. John's: one ad. continuing from 23 Nov was likely a regular returnee (m.ob.), and another thought to be of the *atlantis* race 27 Feb (PL). Three identifiably different Slaty-backed Gulls graced Newfoundland this winter, one ad. at the Lewisporte dump 25 Dec–early Jan (JC), another ad. at St. John's 8 Jan+ (BMT), and another there 12–20 Jan (BMT, JC). At least 75 Black-headed Gulls (a normal complement) wintered at St. John's, including a juv. that had been banded in Iceland (BMT), while the Halifax–Dartmouth C.B.C. tallied 122 Black-headed 16 Dec. A juv. Ivory Gull at Canso, NS 30–31 Dec (TK) provided a special treat (TK). A Common Tern at Ogden's Pond, Antigonish, NS 2 Dec (Bruce Stevens) was extremely late, as was a Pomarine Jaeger off Grand Manan I., NB 10 Dec (Durlan Ingersoll). No really big movements of Dovekies were detected. Thousands of Thick-billed Murres were observed off Happy Adventure, NF 11 Feb (John Gosse), and locals reported that numbers were "way up."

Mourning Doves seem to be becoming tougher birds in the Region relative to 25 years ago, with fewer reports of missing toes and legs due to frostbite, even in Labrador. Still, doves, like other northward-expanding species such as Northern Cardinals and House Finches, are completely dependent on feeders for their sur-

vival during winter. A White-winged Dove was present at Saint John, NB 4 Dec+ (MC), while another at Halifax, NS 29 Feb (Sandra Speaker) provided the province's first Feb report. There was "not even a rumor" of Snowy Owls in Newfoundland (BMT), and 2 at Tantramar, Sackville, NB 6 Jan (ST) provided the highest count. There were many reports of hungry Barred Owls stalking feeders during the day, even in relatively snowless Nova Scotia, where they perhaps prey on nocturnal flying squirrels as well as diurnal rodents. A Boreal Owl hit by a car at French River, Prince Edward I. 9 Dec died the next day (*fide* Fiep de Bie); the only other report was one heard calling at St. Pierre 29 Feb (JD). Long-eared Owl is an enigmatic species, seldom reported unless encountered during the day, such as the singles at Seal Cove, Grand Manan I., NB (Greg Guthrie) and Point Lepreau, NB both 15 Dec (MC), and Long R., Prince Edward I. 18 Dec (Wade MacKinnon). An emaciated Short-eared Owl was picked up at Trepassey, NF 23 Dec (DS); it died later that day. It was not a Red-bellied Woodpecker winter, but one was notably far e. at Glace Bay, NS 1 Dec (JM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Hantsport, NS 5 Jan+ (Marion Fulton) was returning for its 4th winter.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Western Kingbird at Second Pen., Lunenburg, NS 2 Dec (*fide* JH) just made it into the season. It was a very good winter for Northern Shrikes, even into s. Labrador, where singles were at Goose Bay 13 Jan+ (Lidija Chubbs) and St. Lewis 4 Feb (EL). It was the rare flock

of 100 or more Common Redpolls that did not have a shrike in tow. A White-eyed Vireo at Dartmouth, NS toughed it out until 6 Dec (Michael King). Ever the opportunist, a Gray Jay at Goose Bay, Labrador 10 Feb carried off a dead Common Redpoll within an hour of the redpoll hitting a window (Patricia Kelsall). American Crows abandon w. Labrador during winter, but 45 were counted at Goose Bay dump during the C.B.C. 16 Dec, along with 178 Common Ravens; 172 other ravens at Miquelon dump 16 Dec established a local high count. A count of 450 Horned Larks at Grande Pre dykelands, Kings, NS 10 Dec (Luke DeCicco) was impressive. Tufted Titmice made their biggest thrust into New Brunswick since their first appearance there in 1982, with at least 12 reported. In the far nw. part of the province, Edmundston got its first titmouse (JDB), and another at Cambridge Narrows 30 Dec (Cecil & Donna Barnes) provided the first report e. of the Saint John River. Duos of titmice were at St. Andrews and Gagetown (m.ob.); if titmice have not already



Labrador's first Eastern Towhee (here 4 December 2007) persisted at a Goose Bay feeder until 21 January 2008, when temperatures dropped to -39° C with wind chills of -50° C. Photograph by Mike Barnes.

bred somewhere in the sw. province, they certainly appear poised to do so.

The only significant report of Red-breasted Nuthatches was a group of 20 at Prince Edward Island N.P. 31 Dec (TW). There was a significant influx of White-breasted Nuthatches this past fall (likely from New England), leading to record numbers on Christmas counts in the Region, such as 59 at Wolfville, NS 15 Dec. The 2 Carolina Wrens that wintered at Summerside, Prince Edward I. this past winter returned to the same feeder 23 Nov (Bob Milligan). Carolinas are not unusual in New Brunswick but are somewhat rare in Nova Sco-

tia, where there were four reports: 2 in metro Halifax and singles at Upper Ohio and Wolfville. A House Wren at Glace Bay 1 Dec (JM) was the sole report received. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers just made it into the season, with singles at Garden Lots, Lunenburg, NS 2-3 Dec (JH) and at a pig farm at Ferryland, NF 7 Dec (BMt). During a mild winter, reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets are not unusual, especially in Nova Scotia, but one that came to a feeder at St. Pierre village until 21 Jan (JD) deserves mention. A male Varied Thrush at Greenfield, Queens, NS 5 Jan+ (Susan Hannah) obviously never met up with the female at Lawn, Burin Pen., NF 14 Feb+ (Trudy Lundrigan). There were too many Townsend's Solitaire reports in Nova Scotia to enumerate (at least 10), beginning near Sydney 4 Dec (Cheryl Bray) and stretching to Brier I. 17 Dec (*fide* EM), with at least 5 in the Halifax-Dartmouth area (m.ob.). Only 2 solitaires were found elsewhere, singles at Lameque, NB 12 Jan (Gerard Benoit) and Moncton, NB 27 Jan (Hank Scarth).

A Hermit Thrush photographed at Halifax, NS 23 Dec was thought to be of the *guttatus* subspecies (*fide* IM), while another was notable at Trepassy, NF 19 Dec (Cliff Doran). A Fieldfare was a one-day wonder at Dominion Beach, near Sydney, NS 7 Jan (Allan Wilson), as was a Redwing at St. John's, NF 24 Jan (Sampath Seneviratne). American Robins were very plentiful at Avalon Pen., NF until late Jan, when the immense Mountain Ash crop was finally polished off. There was a significant influx of robins at the same time in coastal Lunenburg, NS (JH) and s. Maine, with singles notably far n. in Labrador at Williams Harbour 3 Jan (Trevor Larkham), Labrador City 15 Feb (Gordon Parsons), and Northwest River 16 Feb (Jenny Gear). The only wintering Gray Catbird was still present at The Hawk, Cape Sable I., NS 23 Feb (MN). Northern Mockingbirds are not nearly as common presently as they were even 10 years ago, but one at Gander, NF 21 Dec (Kevin Butler) was locally rare at any season. Most European Starlings retreat from Labrador during winter, but 4 dumpster-diving starlings at Labrador City 12 Dec (Gerry Rideout) were likely attempting to winter. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in flocks of a few hundred in the Maritimes in early Nov but eventually piled up at "Lands-End," Avalon Pen., NF, where a flock at Signal Hill, St. John's 5 Jan was estimated to contain 15,000 birds—the sound of their wings was compared to surf crashing on the beach (JW). By the end of Jan, the waxwings had consumed the immense Mountain Ash crop, then vanished. A flock of 1000 Cedar Waxwings near Petty Harbour, NF 10 Jan (KK) established the largest one-day total for the province.

WARBLERS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Two Yellow Warblers and a Wilson's Warbler were still alive along a sewage outlet at St. John's, NF 26 Dec (BMt). An *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler at Dartmouth, NS frequented a feeder through 28 Dec (Terry Pacquet). For the first time in many years, no Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded on Nova Scotia C.B.C.s, but one was found at Sackville, NB 16 Dec (Tony Erskine). Pine Warblers pile up along the coast during fall, especially in the e. extreme; this season, 3 were at a feeder at Port Hawkesbury, Inverness, NS 8 Dec (David Johnston) and 5 at Canso 30 Dec (TK). A few Pines winter in such situations but not usually in Newfoundland, where one survived at Clarendville until mid-Mar (Pauline Drover). A continuing Prairie Warbler lingered at St. John's, NF through 9 Dec (BMt). The most notable Yellow-breasted Chats were 5 at Dartmouth, NS 1 Dec (m.ob.) and one at Corner Brook, NF 15 Dec (Monique Vassalo).

A White-crowned Sparrow in St. Pierre 13 Feb+ (*fide* RD) provided only the 2nd report ever for that month. A feeder at Goose Bay, Labrador hosted a White-crowned through 24 Jan and a Dark-eyed Junco through 2 Apr (Jim Spearling). A stout Chipping Sparrow at Wabush, Labrador survived through 21 Jan, when temperatures dropped to -36°C (-32°F) with a wind chill of -50°C (-58°F). Another Chipping at St. Pierre village 29 Feb furnished just the 2nd winter report for the islands (JD). The only Lark Sparrows reported were singles at Grande Digue, Kent, NB 3 Dec (Louis-Emile Cormier) and St. John's, NF 11 Dec (Michael Wilkshire). The first report of an Eastern Towhee at Labrador was established with a male at Goose Bay feeder through 21 Jan, when a brutal cold snap set in (Mike Barnes). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak continuing at Dalhousie, NB from mid-Nov vanished 5 Dec (Mike Lushington). Indigo Buntings seem unable to survive freezing temperatures, with final reports coming from Halifax, NS 8 Dec (IM) and Sackville, NB 16 Dec (Sean Blaney).

A large flight of Baltimore Orioles that arrived in mid-Nov apparently contained a few Bullock's Orioles. Prince Edward I. got its first report ever, a hatch-year female at a Charlottetown feeder eating grapes 29 Nov–20 Dec; on

the last date, it was apparently picked off by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (Dwayne Oakley). Newfoundland also got its first report, with a hatch-year male at St. John's that was fed live meal worms and fresh fruit 18 Dec–21 Jan until it was killed in a face-off with an equally desperate American Robin (Dave Brown). A second-year male Bullock's at Canso, NS was luckier and survived the season (TK). The only report of Yellow-headed Blackbird was a female at Saint John, NB 11 Dec (Ngairé Nelson). Lorne and Sandra Slaney of Wabush, Labrador were rewarded for nurturing a young male Red-winged Blackbird through the winter when it began to sing in mid-Feb. A Western Meadowlark at Cap-Pele, Westmoreland, NB 6 Dec (ST) furnished about the 8th report for the province, while another at Cape Sable I., NS 16 Mar (MN) likely had wintered locally. A flock of 6 Rusty Blackbirds remained in a harvested cornfield at Jemseg, Sunbury, NB 11-30 Dec (Don Gibson). A male Brewer's Blackbird at Miscou I., NB 3 Dec (Raymond Beaudin, Lynn Gionet) provided



White-breasted Nuthatch invaded the Atlantic region in record numbers, delighting feeder watchers with their antics, such as this one at Pleasant Grove, Prince Edward Island 25 November 2007. Photograph by Shirley Gallant.

about the 10th accepted report for the province since 1985. Pine Grosbeaks arrived in numbers not seen in the memories of most birders; as wild foods were depleted in Jan and Feb, grosbeaks moved to feeders in flocks of 10-35 birds, much to the delight of their hosts. Red Crossbills went basically unreported in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but fair

SA White-winged Crossbills occurred in healthy numbers at w. Prince Edward I. and in "sensational numbers" on the Avalon Pen., NF (BMT). It was not uncommon to see flocks of 1000-1500, and Regional totals must have been in the tens of thousands. All crossbills examined were ads., with no singing or other indication of breeding noted. The crossbills had vanished by late Jan with the depletion of the cone crop, but it is not known to where they moved. Mactavish hoped they did not fly eastward, but some evidence for such a movement was provided by Paul Linegar, who received 8 crossbills from an oil rig 200 km se. of St. John's in mid-Jan. All the birds had their feathers burned off and "looked like little chicks." Four of the birds eventually died, and it is surmised they flew into a gas flare at night. One can only speculate how many other crossbills may have perished at sea.

numbers were found at Prince Edward I. and Newfoundland, such as 25 at a Marshfield, Queens, PEI feeder 16 Jan (Joost & Ruth Roggeveen) and 25 that fed on larch cones at St. John's, NF 17 Feb (PL).

Hoary Redpolls were universally present, and averaged about 3-5% of redpoll flocks, with numbers arriving by mid-Dec, even in s. Nova Scotia. The highest total for the Maritimes was 12+ at a Canso, NS feeder 11 Feb (TK). Common Redpolls smothered the Region, with probably one million birds by early Jan. Observers had great fun sorting out the different subspecies of both Hoaries and

Commons. Pine Siskins kept to woodlands until Jan, when they increased markedly at feeders around the Region, including 135 at a Barrington, NS feeder 15 Feb (MN). A male American Goldfinch pushed the envelope by wintering at St. Lewis, Labrador (EL). Although Evening Grosbeaks were reported in better-than-average numbers this season, especially in Newfoundland, it is unlikely we will ever see the peaks attained during the 1970s and early 1980s. A flock of 120 grosbeaks at Doctors Cove, Shelburne, NS 11 Dec (JH) indicated some kind of influx. House Sparrows are rapidly disappearing throughout

the Region, with the possible exception (oddly) of Newfoundland and Labrador. Eva Luther thought that 4 at her feeder at St. Lewis, s. Labrador were "cute little things," while counts of 175 on the Gander, NF C.B.C. 22 Dec and 174 on the St. Pierre C.B.C. 29 Dec were of note.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): John Belbin, Norm Belliveau, J. Denys Bourque (JDB), Roger Burrows, Jared Clark, Merv Cormier, Terry Crowell, Joel Detcher, Ralph Eldridge (REL), Roger Etcheberry, James Hirtle, Ulli Hoeger, Laurent Jackman, Tom Kavanaugh, Ken Knowles, Bruno Letournel, Paul Linegar, Eva Luther, Bruce Mactavish, **Ken McKenna**, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Junior Metcalf, Murray Newell, Dorothy Poole, Stuart Tingley, Hans Toom, Bev Schneider, Dave Shepherd, Kathleen Spicer, Trevor Wadman, John Wells. ☉

Brian Dalzell, 120 Mitchell Swan Road
Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia B0K 1V0
(aythya@nb.sympatico.ca)

Québec



Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault
Yves Aubry

Winter 2007-2008 will be remembered as one of the most severe in the past 40 years. Record or near-record snowfall amounts were reported for most of the southern part of the Region. Big

cities far exceeded their snow-removal budgets, and traveling was sometimes very difficult. On the other hand, temperatures were rather mild, especially in the west. Only the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower North Shore were colder than usual. With the snow coming early in late November and early December, few migrants lingered, resulting in a lackluster birding season. Thankfully, winter finches such as redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks were numerous. A very early movement of Cedar Waxwings was detected in the south.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TURKEY

Snow Geese are always unexpected during midwinter, so singles at Noyan 29 Jan (M. Gauthier) and Victoriaville 23 Feb (CR) were noteworthy. A Mute Swan at Lac-du-Cerf 8-12 Dec had apparently been present since summer (K. Rogers et al.). Gadwalls seem to winter regularly now around Montreal; 45 were on the St. Lawrence R. off Verdun 8 Feb (PB). An American Wigeon was noted at Lac-Beauport for most of the winter (GL et al.). Wintering Green-winged Teal included one at Victoriaville 26 Jan (J. Ducharme) and 2 at Maria 9 Feb (CL, R. Caissy). A Redhead at Noyan 23-25 Feb (R. Boulet et al.) may have wintered. We received four reports of single Ring-

necked Ducks, more than usual: at Magog all season (B. Courtemanche); LaSalle 10 Jan (PB); Chambly 17 Feb (S. Rioux, PB); and Ferme-Neuve 20-23 Feb (G. Normandin). Although not unprecedented inland, an imm. male King Eider at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 6 Jan-23 Feb was noteworthy (SR, GL, m.ob.). Two flocks totaling 500 Common Eiders were moving up the St. Lawrence R. at La Pocatière 28 Dec; these were considered southbound migrants preparing for their overland flight toward the Atlantic coast. Such a count at this location so late in the season is unusual (CA, CG). A Harlequin Duck wintered at Hull (RB et al.), as did another at Montréal (imm. male; BB, PB, DD). A Bufflehead appeared at McMasterville 23 Feb (DO). Hooded Mergansers were reported in record numbers this winter; one at Lac-des-Écorces 15 Feb (MAM) and 2 at Chute-Saint-Philippe 18 Feb (MAM) were very unusual for the n. Laurentians.

Five Gray Partridges were detected at St-Luce 20 Dec+ (L. Lefebvre), the first to winter in the Lower St. Lawrence area. Wild Turkeys are not only more widespread in the s. Region but are now extending their range into the hills n. of the Outaouais R., as evidenced by lone birds at L. Louvigny, s. of Kiamika, 15

Feb (MAM) and Mount Sainte-Marie in the n. Outaouais area 17 Feb (B. Cloutier).

LOONS THROUGH DOVES

A Common Loon at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 6 Jan (SR, GL) and 2 others at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 23 Feb (R. & J. Gregson) were seasonally rare. Lingering Great Blue Herons were singles at Québec City 7 Jan (PL), Lingwick 14 Jan (found dead, *fide* R. Morin), and Havre-Aubert 23 Feb (GC). Now reported almost every winter, single Turkey Vultures visited Stoke 10 Jan (J. Turgeon) and Saint-Armand 17 Jan (N. Bourdon). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Havre-Aubert 29 Feb (GC) was unexpected for the Magdalen Islands. Single Red-shouldered Hawks wintered at Laval (m.ob.) and Aylmer (GM et al.). A *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk wintered at Gatineau for its 4th year (AC et al.). A few Golden Eagles again wintered with Bald Eagles at Sainte-Anne-du-Lac in the n. Laurentians (MAM).

A Killdeer at Saint-Fulgence 11 Dec (J. Ibarzabal, L. Godin) was very late for the Saguenay area. A Wilson's Snipe was found at Laverrière, Magdalen Is. 21 Feb (C. Roy, DG. Gaudet), while 3 wintered at La Pocatière, a traditional wintering site for the past 20 years (CA, CG). A first-cycle Mew Gull was identified at LaSalle 15 Dec (BB). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Verdun 23 Feb (DD) and Sherbrooke 27 Feb (R. Baeta) were possibly wintering. A first-cycle Ivory Gull brightened Saint-Vallier 1 Dec (JL, D. Boutin, GL, G. Cyr et al.). Different ad. Thick-billed Murres were found at Percé 6 (A. Couture, Y. Cyr) & 13 Jan (JR. Lepage, D. Mercier, D. Jalbert et al.). The Eurasian Collared-Dove continued at Saint-Anselme into early Mar (S. Audet, R. Labadie).

OWLS THROUGH PIPITS

A Barn Owl was found dead inside a barn at Saint-Matthias-sur-Richelieu 5 Dec (*fide* A. M. Roth). Three Northern Hawk Owls wintered in the Lanaudière area. Numerous Barred Owls were observed in forest margins throughout s. Québec as they ventured out of their woodland habitats. A late movement of Great Gray Owls was detected in the Lanaudière and Montréal areas, with 5 birds reported, the first on 21 Feb. A Boreal Owl en-

livened Boucherville Islands Park 21-23 Feb (S. Sabourin). Single Belted Kingfishers were seen at three sites in the Laurentians: at Lac-des-Écorces 13 Jan+ (MAM et al.); at Notre-Dame-du-Laus 20 Feb (RB, D. Dallaire, AC); and at Saint-Jérôme 24 Feb (S. Chevalier). Other kingfishers were at Saint-Jules-de-Casapédia 8-17 Feb (CL) and Cap-aux-Meules 29 Feb (GC). A Red-bellied Woodpecker wintered at Saint-André d'Argenteuil (C. Lemieux, P. Dubuc), while others were at La Pêche 5 Jan (J. Soucie) and Gatineau 6 Jan (F. Lemay). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered at Montréal through 5 Dec (S. Guimond).

Reports of out-of-range Tufted Titmouse were again numerous following the large fall flight, with the easternmost bird at Pointe-au-Père 11 Jan+ (F. Lévesque). Carolina Wrens were also fairly numerous despite the heavy snowfall, with ca. 20 individuals, including 8 in the Québec City area. Single Winter Wrens were at Cap Tourmente 15 Jan-25 Feb (SC) and Île des Soeurs 15 Jan (PB). Six Townsends Solitaires were reported from as many sites, including 4 in or near Québec City: at Saint-Nicolas 23 Dec-17 Feb (N. Hallé); at Lac-Saint-Charles 24 Dec (D. Cloutier); at Québec City 25 Dec (André Couture); at Beauport 1-5 Jan (J. Laporte, A. Rasmussen); at Île Notre-Dame 31 Dec+ (D. Millar); and at Gatineau 21 Jan (F. Leduc). A Hermit Thrush was at Aylmer 19-21 Feb (GM), while another wintered at Deschênes (C. Rimmer et al.). A Brown Thrasher was notable at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 11-15 Feb (C. Lalumière). A very late American Pipit tarried at Boucherville 9-12 Dec (M. Bertrand).

WARBLERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A Yellow-rumped Warbler brightened a Charlesbourg feeder 13-16 Dec (SC). Pine Warblers lingered at L'Anse-à-Beaufils through 15 Dec (R. Côté) and Chandler through 22 Dec (R. Garrett). A Common Yellowthroat tarried at Île Sainte-Hélène, Montréal through 10 Dec (M. Bridger). A Chipping Sparrow found at Montreal 30 Jan remained into early Mar (J. Harrison), and a Fox Sparrow remained at Québec City into Jan (PL). A Lincoln's Sparrow again appeared at a feeder at Neuville, this time 2 Dec (M.

Darveau). Single White-crowned Sparrows were at Montreal 17 Jan (A. Graig), Laval 30 Jan+ (ph. J. Perreault), and Aylmer 12 Feb (M. Prévost). The imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak discovered at Laverrière, Magdalen Is. 25 Nov was still present 24 Feb (C. Roy). A Yellow-headed Blackbird visited Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 26-28 Dec (DO). It was an excellent winter for Rusty Blackbirds, with reports from 10 sites, six of these in the Québec City area. The more notable Rusty reports include one at Bergeronnes 14 Feb (S. Belleau, P. Côté) and up to 7 at Beauport 23 Feb (R. Boutet). Numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Hoary Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks were fairly good in s. Québec, mostly away from forests, where the conc crop was virtually nonexistent.

Addenda: Single White-winged Doves visited feeders at Boischatel 15-30 Jun 2007 (ph. Jean Paré, *fide* M. Raymond) and Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane 30 Oct-5 Nov 2007 (ph. J. Deschenes).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): C. Auchu, P. Bannon (Montréal), B. Barnhurst, R. Belhumeur, R. Bisson, G. Chiasson, A. Cloutier, S. Cloutier, D. Demers, C. Douville (Lower-St. Lawrence), C. Girard, L. Imbeau (Abitibi), J. Lachance (Québec City), C. Lamarre, P. Lanc, G. Laperrière, G. Lord, G. McNulty, M. A. Montpetit, D. Ouellette, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), A. Richard (Magdalen Is.), S. Robert, C. Roy (Bois-Francis), G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), D. Toussaint (Outaouais). ☺

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1, (pbannon@videotron.ca)
Olivier Barden, 1652 rue de Bruyères
Sainte-Foy, Québec G1W 3H1
(whitephasegyrfalcon@hotmail.com)
Normand David, 516 Shakespeare
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec H9G 1A2
(normanddavid@videotron.ca)
Samuel Denault, 75 Beauchemin
Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6
(samuel.denault@videotron.ca)
Yves Aubry, Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4H5
(yves.aubry@ec.gc.ca)



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AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

New England



Pamela Hunt

In stark contrast to the winter of 2006-2007, which did not really begin until mid-January 2007, this past winter could arguably be considered to have begun in November 2007. Not only were that month's temperatures somewhat below the 100-year average, but several species of boreal irruptives had already made significant inroads into the Region. By the first week in December, New England had already received its first major snowfall, and the ground remained largely covered for the rest of the season except in southern coastal areas. December and February received above-average precipitation, and this was the wettest February in 114 years of record keeping in four of the six states. For the most part, this moisture fell as snow, and several localities in the northern three states reported record snowfall accumulations; Caribou, Maine recorded 5 meters (16 feet) by the end of April. Seasonal temperatures for the Region were somewhat above average, highlighted by a traditional "January thaw" at the beginning of the month.

It was clearly a winter for northern irruptives, with one of the best flights in years (if not ever) for Northern Shrikes, Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and both Common and Hoary Redpolls. In addition, a remarkable number of Barred Owls moved southward, but many later were found dead along the Region's roadways. At least one Great Gray Owl and two Boreal Owls also moved south into Maine. Several Christmas Bird Counts reported record high counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and several of these individuals wintered even in the northern states. As for rarities, space precludes a detailed listing in this introduction, but one species per state is in order: Black Vulture in Maine, Prairie Warbler in Vermont, Eared Grebe in New Hampshire, 3 Slaty-backed



A male Tufted Duck spent the latter half of the season (here 12 February 2008) in East Providence, Rhode Island. Photograph by Dan Finizia.

Gulls in Massachusetts, Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher in Connecticut, and Ivory Gull in Rhode Island.

Abbreviations: Eastham (Barnstable, MA), Gloucester (Essex, MA), Hammonasset Beach (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Middlesex, CT), Provincetown (Barnstable, MA), Rockport (Essex, MA), Wellfleet (Barnstable, MA).

WATERFOWL

The season began with the end of fall migration, when several Connecticut observers tallied a total of 3500 Snow Geese moving southward over multiple locations 1 Dec. Among the rarer geese, the Region hosted at least 16 Greater White-fronteds (9 in Connecticut, 6 in Rhode Island, one in Massachusetts), with one other reported without details at Bellow's Falls, Windham, VT 1 Dec. Cackling Goose reports were up, with 7 each in Connecticut and Rhode Island and 12 in Massachusetts. One of the Connecticut birds at Middlefield, Middlesex 30 Nov-early Dec was of the *taverneri* subspecies (ph., m.ob.) and perhaps was the same individual that appeared in w. Massachusetts in Oct 2007. And then there were the Barnacle Geese. In what seems a relatively short time, this species has gone from "suspect rarity" to "expected vagrant," concomitant with continued increases in the Greenland breeding population. This season, 3 were reported: singles at Enfield, Hartford, CT 8 Dec (P. Cianfaglione), Moosup, Windham, CT 30 Dec (C. Elphick), and Sharon, Norfolk, MA 31 Dec-12 Jan (ph. G. Leganza, m.ob.). Tundra Swans included 3 at the traditional wintering spot at Coventry, Kent, RI and singles at Little Compton, Newport, RI 15 Dec-9 Jan and Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA 22 Dec (JT). Northerly outliers among Mute Swans were 5 at Grand Isle, VT and up to 8 on the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, Cheshire, NH.

Perhaps because of the early cold and snow, numbers of Northern Shoveler were down this winter, with 16 in Massachusetts, 4 in Rhode Island, and singles in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Most Blue-winged Teal were on islands, including 3 at Block I, RI in Feb and one at Nantucket 29 Dec. The only other Blue-winged was at Eastham 23 Dec. The Region's only Eurasian Teal was at Matuntuck, Washington, RI 26 Dec (B. Heck). Observers on the shores at L. Champlain found some



An Ivory Gull made an appearance at Little Compton, Rhode Island 7 December 2007 and lingered just long enough for this photograph to be taken on the following day. Photograph by Paul L'Etoile.

impressive counts of diving ducks. Early in the season, they congregated at the n. end of the lake off Colchester (Chittenden), but by late Dec, ice forced the flocks some 60 km southward to Addison. In late Feb, ice had begun to break up back at Colchester, and the birds returned northward. The dominant species throughout the winter was Greater Scaup, which made up 80-90% of the up to 3000 scaup present. Next in abundance were 1700-2400 Common Goldeneyes and 900-1800 Common Mergansers (TM). Mixed in



This American White Pelican at Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts was present just a single day, 8 January 2008. Photograph by Patrick O'Connor.

were a few rarities, including up to 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes, one or 2 Canvasbacks, 2 Red-heads, and single White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, and Long-tailed Duck. Far from nw. Vermont, a male Tufted Duck wintered at East Providence, *Providence*, RI 22 Jan+ (ph. RF, m.ob.). Four King Eiders at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 6 Dec (P. Dugan) were a treat, and one remained all season. Diligent searching of Common Eider flocks turned up *borealis* males at Gloucester 2 Jan–3 Feb (ph. MJJ, JT) and Cape Elizabeth 22 Feb (ph. DL). All six states hosted Harlequin Ducks, including 113 in Maine, 312 in Massachusetts, and 183 in Rhode Island. Elsewhere, another Harlequin graced Hammonasset Beach 3 Dec; 2–3 were in coastal New Hampshire 3 Dec–15 Jan; and an ad. male at Shelburne, *Chittenden*, VT through 9 Dec was relocated 20–28 Jan, when it had been joined by an imm. male. The high count of Long-tailed Ducks at Nantucket was an impressive 350,000 on 1 Jan (VL). Common Goldeneye hybrids made a bit of news, with a Hooded Merganser cross at Mount Desert I., *Washington*, ME 11 Dec (*fide* WT) and a Barrow's cross at Plum I., *Essex*, MA 3 Feb (RH).

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Once again, Pacific Loons were reported at Portland, Provincetown, and Rockport, with another at Wellfleet. A remarkable total of 227 Red-necked Grebes at Reid S.P., *Sagadahoc*, ME 23 Dec (DL) furnished one of the highest ever reported in the Region. The Eared Grebe at Rye, NH 3 Dec returned for a 2nd year, but then moved 9 km southward to North Hampton, *Rockingham* 18 Dec–19 Jan. Another Eared was found in Connecticut waters dur-

ing the Napatree Pt., RI C.B.C. 23 Dec (*fide* RF). An Eared Grebe that has wintered at East Gloucester for the past 13 winters has made it into the longevity record book—assuming the same bird has been involved for the duration. A Western Grebe at Wellfleet 12 Jan (DB) was re-located 21 Feb (P. Trull, m.ob.). Five Greater Shearwaters were off Cape Cod in Dec. For the 2nd consecutive winter, a Sooty Shearwater was reported in the Region, this time off Pt. Judith, *Washington*, RI 22 Dec (R. Ferren). The sole American White Pelican was a one-day wonder along the Deerfield R. at Shelburne Falls, *Franklin*, MA 8 Jan (ph. D. Wheeler). Wading birds were relatively scarce this win-

ter: 5 Great Egrets at Martha's Vineyard 5 Jan (TJ, VL) and one Snowy Egret at Harwich, *Barnstable*, MA 11 Jan were late, while a Cattle Egret lingered at Nantucket 2–3 Dec (L. Morgan et al.). In addition to Black Vultures at traditional sites in Connecticut, there were at least 3 in s. *Berkshire*, MA in Jan, 10 in sw. *Washington*, RI, and 4 at Westport, *Bristol*, MA 3 Feb. Trumping all these reports was a single bird that wintered with up to 30 Bald Eagles at a poultry farm at Warren, *Knox*, ME 15 Dec+ (m.ob.).

Ospreys were reported in three states. Most notable of these were singles at s. Kingston, RI 19 Dec (S. Tsagarakis), Charlotte, *Chittenden*, VT 25 Dec (T. Morley), and Maynard, *Middlesex*, MA 30 Dec and 17 Jan–7 Feb (P. Boothroyd). A Cooper's Hawk on the Presque Isle, ME C.B.C. provided just the 2nd report for that count. Although Cooper's Hawks have been increasing dramatically in the Region following declines in the 1970s, they are not expected in n. Maine. Numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were above average, perhaps a reflection of the same prey cycles that drove owls and shrikes southward, with 7 in Maine, 20 in Vermont, 8–10 in New Hampshire, 30 in Massachusetts, 20 in Connecticut, and 13 in Rhode Island. The only Gyrfalcon was at s. Burlington, VT 4 Dec (S. Morrical). A Sandhill Crane spent most of the season at Matunuck, RI. Clapper Rails were found at three sites in Connecticut: on the Greenwich/Stamford C.B.C. 15 Dec, at Milford Pt., *New Haven* 19 Dec–8 Feb (K. Elkins), and at

Old Lyme, *New London* 13 Jan (J. Marshall). At least 18 Virginia Rails were reported in Massachusetts, with 12 of these from the Nantucket C.B.C. 29 Dec (JT, M. Malin). The latest Virginia was at Eastham 19 Jan (JT, MJJ). Also on Cape Cod, one or 2 Soras were found on the Mid-Cape C.B.C. 22 Dec.

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Four Semipalmated Plovers at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 22 Dec (J. Hough) were unusually late, while the Region's latest report came from Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 30 Dec (T. Young). Most intriguing was an undocumented report of a Semipalmated at Wilmington, *Windham* 18 Dec (B. Cole), in an inland valley in s. Vermont, perhaps one of the last places one would consider hosting a wayward shorebird during winter. An American Avocet at E. Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA 9–14 Dec (K. McGinley et al.) was later relocated in neighboring Wellfleet 8 Jan (DB). While Cape Cod is often home to lingering shorebirds during early winter, this was certainly not the season where they would be expected into Feb. Nonetheless, 2 Western Willets and 3 Long-billed Dowitchers at Eastham 19 Feb (ph. B. Harris) likely represent the latest winter reports of these species for Massachusetts. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Little Compton 23 Feb (ph. GD) earned the same distinction for Rhode Island. As populations of Red Knots



This Lesser Yellowlegs in Little Compton 27 February 2008 represents the latest winter record of the species ever for Rhode Island. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.

continue to decline in the w. Atlantic, so do the already scarce winter reports for the Region. This season, there were 2 knots each in Connecticut and Rhode Island and one in Massachusetts. An American Woodcock at Brattleboro, *Windham*, VT 17 Dec was probably not enthused with the local snow cover.

Niles Pond and nearby areas in e. Gloucester, *Essex*, MA hosted an impressive number and variety of large gulls; counts of expected species included 6000 Herring, 25 Iceland, 4 Lesser Black-backed, 23 Glaucous, and 2600



Three Long-billed Dowitchers found at Eastham 19 February 2008 represent a new late record for Massachusetts. Photograph by B. Harris.

Great Black-backed. Careful picking through these larids revealed some surprises, including 3 apparent Thayer's Gulls, a possible second-cycle California Gull 26-27 Feb (RH, JT), and 2 Slaty-backed Gulls (one ad. and one third-cycle) 23 Dec (ph. D. Sibley, RH et al.). A first for Massachusetts, one Slaty-backed lingered for a week, while the other remained through 24 Feb. Another Slaty-backed Gull was found at Eastham 23 Dec (W. Petersen, D. Larson) and yet another at the Rochester W.T.P., *Strafford*, NH 19 Feb (ph. B. Griffith). Additional noteworthy gull counts for the Region were 105 Lesser Black-backs at Nantucket 22 Jan (VL) and highs of 8 Iceland and 5 Glaucous at Burlington, VT. Other rare gulls included a first-cycle Ivory Gull at Little Compton 7-8 Dec (ph. R. Emerson), a Mew Gull at Nantucket 10 Feb (ph. E. Ray), and a Black-tailed Gull at e. Providence, RI 17 Feb (p.a., T. Seiter). The Region's jaegers were restricted to Dec, and all positive identifications were of Pomarines: singles at Niantic, *New London*, CT 12 Dec (Dave Provencher) and Reid S.P., ME 15 Dec (M. Fahay); 7 off Rockport 10 Dec (RH); and 13 at Eastham 17 Dec (BN). Unidentified jaegers were reported at Cape Cod, Block I., and in coastal Connecticut.

Again this winter, above-average numbers of Dovekies were in New England waters, with 820 at Provincetown 2 Dec (BN) and 27 at Rockport 3 Dec (RH). Most remaining totals were in the single digits, with the exception of 27 off Block I. 30 Dec (ST) and 24 at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 1 Jan (L. Seitz, S. Walsh). Most unusual was a single Dovekie more than 60 km inland at Putnam, *Windham*, CT 16 Dec. Also noteworthy for Connecticut was a Black Guillemot down Long Island Sound at Stamford 2 Feb (P.

Dugan), representing the first well-documented report for the state since 1934. Maximum counts of large alcids at traditional sea-watch sites in Massachusetts included 47 Common Murres and 640 Razorbills at Rockport 27 Dec (RH) and 16 Common Murres and 3163 Razorbills at Provincetown 4 Feb (Ian Davies et al.). Smaller but still notable totals at other locations were 27 Common Murres off Block I. 30 Dec (ST), 490 Razorbills at Plum I. 6 Jan, and 1300 Razorbills at Wellfleet 19 Jan (G. d'Entremont).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

It was a poor year for Snowy Owls, with only one in Vermont, 2 in New Hampshire, 5 in Maine, and 8 in Massachusetts. In contrast, Long-eared Owls were reported in above-average numbers in all states except Vermont, with singles in Maine and New Hampshire, 11 in Massachusetts, 6 in Connecticut, and 2

in Rhode Island. If a rodent crash in Canada was behind the Barred Owl irruption in the Region, it was not in an area frequented by the more traditional northern owls. The only Great Gray Owl, at Jackson, *Waldo*, MA 25 Jan (m.ob.), was taken to a rehabilitator a few days later and died in captivity 31 Jan; an autopsy revealed it to be emaciated, anemic, and heavily infested with parasites. Large numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls passed through the Region this past fall, and several were found dead along roads in winter; unusually high counts were obtained on Connecticut C.B.C.s. Two Boreal Owls were reported in Maine: one found dead at Monhegan I. 9 Jan (*fide* Kristen Lindquist) and another at Durham, *Androscoggin* 21 Jan (ph. G. Lord).

The "only" hummingbirds this season were Rufous: singles in Connecticut on the Hartford C.B.C. 15 Dec and at Mystic, *New London* through 11 Feb (L. Case); and singles photographed in Massachusetts at North Falmouth, *Barnstable* through 21 Dec, Eastham through 30 Dec, and Marshfield, *Plymouth* through 12 Jan. The only Red-headed Woodpeckers reported were one in Connecticut and 2 in Rhode Island. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were unusually widespread, even in the n. Region, with 2 in Maine, 11 in Vermont, and 9 in New Hampshire. The northernmost birds were at Burlington and Wilder, *Windsor*, VT; Concord, NH; and Portland, ME. Farther south, there were at least 20 reports for Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, including a remarkable 22 on the Northhampton, MA C.B.C. 15 Dec. Many of these birds remained through the season. A few birders had a chance to see American Three-toed Woodpeckers, the Region's rarest picid. The most reliable was at Stockholm,

SA In an article in *Bird Observer* (36: 78-85), John Kricher used the title "Invasion of the Berry Snatchers" for an article on this winter's incursion of Bohemian Waxwings. The irruption began in n. New England during early Oct and brought unprecedented numbers to much of the Region. Prior to the beginning of the winter season, flocks of up to 100 waxwings were observed, primarily in the n. three states. It was not until just before Christmas that the irruption intensified. Waxwings poured into e. Massachusetts, with C.B.C. totals of 830 at Cape Ann 23 Dec (RH) and 983 at Cape Cod 23 Dec, with single-digit tallies in *Worcester* and *Berkshire* later in the month. Three waxwings appeared at Canaan, *Litchfield*, CT 22 Dec (P. Carrier), while one at South Kingston provided the sole report for Rhode Island. Ten or fewer waxwings continued in nw. Connecticut through early Jan.

In the n. part of the Region, large flocks continued, with 800 in *Penobscot*, ME 19 Dec and 800-1000 at Loudon, *Merrimack*, NH 1 Jan. There was a general trend toward larger flocks in Maine and New Hampshire relative to those in Vermont, where no flock exceeded 150 birds. After early Jan, Bohemians were relatively scarce in Massachusetts, although flocks of 10-30 were in scattered localities from Gloucester to the Connecticut River Valley. By mid-Feb, even the flocks in the n. part of the Region had decreased in size, and by the end of the month, maxima in Maine and New Hampshire were under 100. The exception, oddly enough, was at Cape Cod, where 100 appeared at Wellfleet 23 Feb (F. Caruso). Because most of this winter's waxwings were in the e. part of the Region (Maine, New Hampshire, e. Massachusetts), some have speculated that the source of many invaders was Atlantic Canada rather than boreal areas farther west.

SA The owl story of the season concerns the Region's most widespread species: Barred Owl. Starting in early Dec, observers began noting this species along New England's roadsides. Many had been hit by cars, and live individuals were captured and taken to rehabilitators, where several were found to be in emaciated. Some rehabilitators were caring for 20-30 individuals at a time. It appears that many of these owls were young birds and possibly originated in Canada. A late spring freeze there may have led to decreased rodent populations. In New England, these owls were faced with the double whammy of competition with local owls and the extensive snow cover that made hunting difficult. Massachusetts Wildlife and Tufts University are collaborating on a study of the owls that died.

Aroostook, ME, where it was reported through 5 Jan (*fide* WS). Undocumented reports from Vermont came from Moose Bog, *Essex* 5 Jan (S. Cramer) and Berkshire, *Franklin* 10-12 Feb (R. Ford, L. Haugh).

One of the rarest birds of the season was a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at Osbornedale S.P., *New Haven* 1-7 Dec (ph. R. Harvey, m.ob.), providing a first state record of this complex for Connecticut. Interestingly, the bird responded to a recording of a Pacific-slope Flycatcher and ignored recordings of Cordilleran Flycatcher (*fide* NB) but was not heard vocalizing. Lingered in a winter decidedly lacking in flying insects were Eastern Phoebe at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME 2 Dec and Middleboro, *Plymouth*, MA 20-27 Feb (K. Anderson). Even more unexpected were flycatchers at Cape Cod: a Great Crested Flycatcher at Chatham 23-24 Dec (ph.), an extremely rare species n. of Florida in winter in North America; and a Western Kingbird at Barnstable 9-19 Jan (ph. K. Morton et al.). The Bell's Vireo at Sachuest Point N.W.R., *Newport*, RI lingered through 1 Dec. Northern Shrikes in the Region reached record or near-record totals on several C.B.C.s, with at least 50 each in Maine and Vermont, 70 in New Hampshire, 75 in Massachusetts, 45 in Connecticut, and 4 in Rhode Island. The high numbers of shrikes may have been related to a crash in Canadian vole populations that forced large numbers of owls and other species into New England. The Region's northernmost Fish Crows were at Saco, *York*, ME and Salem, *Rockingham*, NH.

Several flocks of 100-400 Horned Larks were reported in the Connecticut R. valley from Vermont and New Hampshire to Massachusetts, perhaps reflecting populations concentrated by heavy snow cover. Four Northern Rough-winged Swallows at New Haven,

CT through 23 Jan (NB, m.ob.) had arrived with several Cave Swallows. Two other Cave Swallows at Charlestown, *RI* 6 Dec (H. Willoughby, P. Capobianco) provided a first state and 2nd Regional winter report. After a fall season with several southerly reports of boreal residents, it wasn't surprising to receive two reports of Boreal Chickadees away from known breeding areas—singles at Quabbin, *MA* 9 Dec (B. Zajda) and Shelburne, *VT* 16 Dec (E. Buford). Tufted Titmice "invaded" the north, with individuals in n. Maine at Rangeley, *Franklin* in Dec and Presque Isle, *Aroostook* through early Feb (WS). Also indicative of southerly birds moving northward were Carolina Wrens at 19 sites in Vermont, primarily in the Champlain Valley and Connecticut River Valley.

THRUSHES THROUGH TANAGERS

Massachusetts hosted Townsend's Solitaires at Hingham, *Plymouth* 15 Dec (K. Godfrey) and Rockport 24 Dec–23 Feb (ph. M. Duffy, m.ob.). American Robins were numerous but not noticeably more so than recent winters. Although fruit remained abundant in n. New England, numbers of robins appeared to decline in New Hampshire during midwinter. Somewhat surprisingly given recent winters, there were only two reports of Varied Thrushes, both in Connecticut, one at Kent, *Litchfield* late Dec+ (E. Baumgarten) and another at Southbury, *Fairfield* during the last week of Feb (L. Cole). Northerly Brown Thrashers were at s. Chittenden, *VT* 14 Dec (D. Bailey) and Machias, *Washington*, ME 8 Dec (B. Cooper).

As usual, an impressive selection of warblers lingered into early Dec. The following warblers were at Boston Public Gardens through 3 Dec: 2 Orange-crowneds, a Nashville, a Magnolia (C. Floyd), a Black-throated Green, and 2 Pines. A Wilson's Warbler was nearby at Mount Auburn Cemetery 8 Dec (J. Restivo). Later in the season, a Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at East Orleans 22 Dec–21 Feb (ph. C. Kennedy et al.). An Ovenbird was at Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA 26-28 Jan. Despite the wintery conditions, Massachusetts and Connecticut each hosted at least 9 Yellow-breasted Chats, and 6 others were tallied on three Rhode Island C.B.C.s. The n. part of the Region also hosted its share of warblers: a Yellow-rumped at Augusta, *Kennebec*, ME 23

Dec (N. Famous) was unusually far inland; and more noteworthy were a Cape May at Biddeford, *York*, ME through 3 Dec and a Prairie at Putney, *Rutland*, VT 7-10 Dec (ph. L. Herlihy, M. Blust). Three states were graced with Western Tanagers: singles at Wells, *York*, ME 18 Dec (ph. DL, L. Brinker, R. Lambert); at Hammonasset Beach 16 Jan–15 Feb (C. Harrington); at Merrimac, *Essex*, MA 21 Jan–4 Feb (ph. V. Penney et al.); and at Brewster, MA 31 Jan+ (m.ob.).

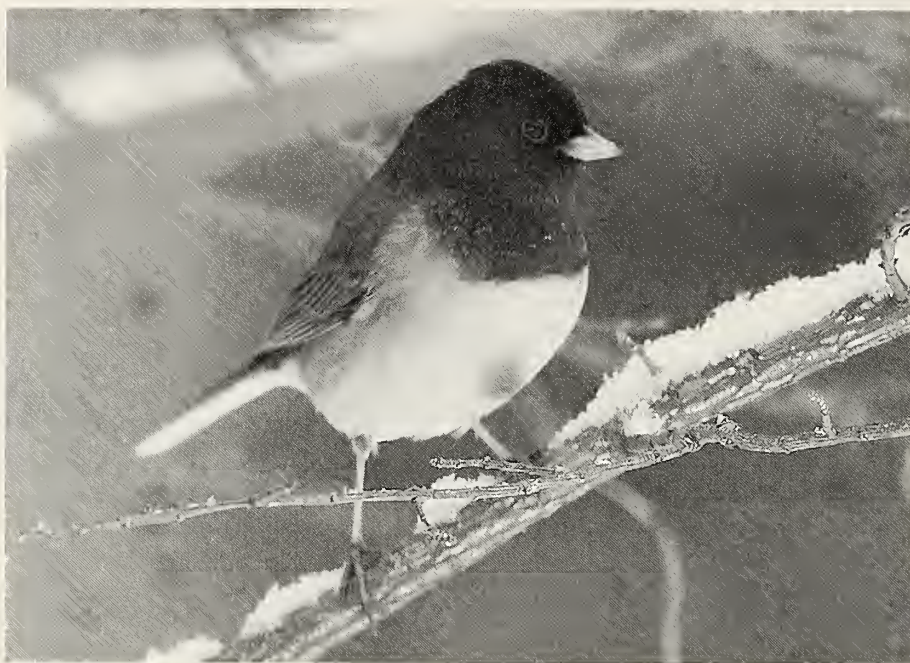
SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An Eastern Towhee that wintered at Sherman, *Aroostook* until being killed by a cat 28 Feb (*fide* WS) furnished the 5th winter report for n. Maine. Equally unusual in *Aroostook* were 13 Northern Cardinals at five sites, compared to the usual one or two reports (*fide* WS). Reports of Lark Sparrows included 2 in Massachusetts and singles in New Hampshire and Rhode Island; only the wintering bird at Millbury, *Worcester*, MA was reported after 23 Dec. It was a better-than-average winter for *Ammodramus* sparrows in s. New England. Two Seaside Sparrows at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 20 Dec (E. Raynor) were late, while 9 at Eastham 24 Dec (JT) furnished one of the higher recent winter counts for Massachusetts. Latest of all was a Seaside at Newbury, *Essex*, MA 3 Feb (RH). Small numbers of Salt-



This Prairie Warbler spent four days (here 7 December 2007) on the campus of Green Mountain College in Putney, Vermont. Photograph by Michael Blust.

marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows lingered at Cape Cod through Dec, with the season's latest report at Gloucester 26 Jan (I. Davies). Observers in Connecticut found a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow at East Haven 17-20 Dec (E. Raynor) and Oregon Juncos at New Hartford, *Litchfield* 13 Dec–mid-Jan (ph. D. Tripp) and Ashford, *Windham* 14 Jan–mid-Feb (ph. M. Szantyr). Reports in parts of the Region suggest that numbers of Lapland Longspurs were high, perhaps related to the heavy snow cover.



One of two Oregon Juncos in Connecticut this winter, this male was in New Hartford 1 January 2008. Photograph by Tom Sayers.

Several days and roughly 60 km apart were a female Painted Bunting at Falmouth 2-4 Dec (ph. H. Caswell et al.) and an Indigo Bunting at Wellfleet 11 Dec (DB). Although Rusty Blackbirds continue to experience rangewide population declines, numbers in the Region seemed relatively high, with 45 at New Haven, CT 3 Dec, 30-60 at Rhode Island sites through early Jan, and 87 at Middleboro, Plymouth, MA 30 Dec (M. Faherty). A Yellow-headed Blackbird brightened one site in Connecticut, and totals of Baltimore Orioles were 2 in Maine, 5 in Massachusetts, 4 in Connecticut, and one in Rhode Island. Pine Grosbeaks staged a major flight that began in Oct and peaked in Dec. Maxima averaged 30-50 birds in Maine and New Hampshire, 50-100 in w. Massachusetts, and rarely more than 10 in e. Massachusetts. Most of Con-

necticut's grosbeaks were in Litchfield, including 107 on the Barkhamsted C.B.C. 22 Dec, while a flyover at Cumberland, Providence 2 Dec (M. Lynch) furnished the only report for Rhode Island. Birds began to disappear from s. New England by mid-Feb, although numbers continued into spring. Purple Finches were quite scarce despite a good fall flight. Maximum counts were fewer than 25 with the exception of 60 at Little Compton, RI through early Feb (GD). Red Crossbills staged a strong coastal flight even though they were rarely reported in the n. three states. Maxima included 25 at Truro, MA 27 Dec, 98 on the Napatree C.B.C., RI 23 Dec, and 42 at Hammonasset Beach 7 Dec (NB), where scrutiny of recordings revealed that most birds were of the "Type 4" call-type, with at least 3 individuals uttering "Type 3"

calls. A smattering of White-winged Crossbills were found, including 24 at Wellfleet in early Feb, a total of 3 in Rhode Island, and up to 3 at scattered sites in Connecticut.

Red Crossbills weren't the only northern finch to allow observers the opportunity to work on subtleties of identification. Common and Hoary Redpolls also staged major irruptions. Common Redpolls were widespread through mid-Jan, with the highest counts (200-400) from several locations in Massachusetts and one feeder at Sandwich, Carroll, NH (T. Vazzano). Given the numbers of Common Redpolls present in the Region, many observers attempted to distinguish between the expected subspecies *flammea* and the larger and darker *rostrata* from Greenland. Several *rostrata* were found in the south, including at least 6 in e. Massachusetts and singles at Goshen, Litchfield, CT 27 Dec (NB) and East Providence, RI 27 Feb+. Hoary Redpolls staged the largest incursion into the Region since the winter of 2003-2004, with about 10 reports each in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, 25 in Massachusetts, four in Connecticut, and two or more in Rhode Island. At least one Hoary of the nominate subspecies (from Greenland) was reported at Wellfleet 6 Jan (ph. P. Bono, MJI). As often occurs when numbers of redpolls are concentrated at feeders, a *Salmonella* outbreak affected birds in midwinter. Among other finches, numbers of American Goldfinches were much lower than this past winter, while Evening Grosbeak numbers were up (albeit still far below the pre-1990 averages). Evening Grosbeaks, like all the other irruptives, made a relatively good showing in Connecticut, with a total of 42 reported, and 2 made it to Rhode Island at Hope Valley, Washington 24 Dec.

Corrigenda: In the Spring 2007 summary, a report of 1000 American Black Ducks at Hinsdale, NH should have referred to a mixed flock of American Black Ducks and Mallards.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Dan Berard, Jim Berry, Nick Bonomo, Geoff Dennis, Rachel Farrell (Rhode Island), Greg Hanisek (Connecticut), Rick Heil, David Hoag, Marshall J. Iliff, Vernon Laux, Derek Lovitch, Stephen Mirick, Ted Murin, Blair Nikula, Marjorie Rines (Massachusetts), William Sheehan (n. Maine), Jeremiah Trimble, William Townsend (Maine). Data supplied via eBird were particularly useful in sorting out the boreal irruptives. 🐦



A flock of over 60 Purple Finches graced a feeder in Little Compton, Rhode Island for much of the winter (here 3 January 2008), providing the New England region with its highest count for the season. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.

Pamela Hunt, 26 Whitewater Drive, Penacook New Hampshire 03303, (biodiva@verizon.net)



Frank Rohrbacher
Robert O. Paxton
Richard R. Veit

The weather this season was closer to historic norms than in recent years. Temperatures during December were essentially normal but produced heavy snowfalls in central and northern New York. January was 4-8° F warmer and drier, and February was one degree warmer and wetter than normal. Less hardy species did not linger through the Christmas Bird Count season as during previous winters. This was particularly evident in the colder regions of New York. However, the warmer months of January and February allowed most remaining half-hardy species to survive. The major story this season was the large incursion of winter irruptives, with Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks particularly abundant and widespread. Additionally, a record number of Greenland geese were noted. Regional highlights included Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Slaty-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Ross's Gull, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, and Scott's Oriole.

Abbreviations: Dunkirk Harbor (Dunkirk Harbor, L. Erie, *Chautauqua*, NY); Island Beach (Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ); Montauk (Montauk Pt., *Suffolk*, Long I., NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway National Recreation Area, *Monmouth*, NJ).

WATERFOWL

One of the big stories of the season was the number of geese that breed in e. Greenland and typically winter in Europe that were found in the Region. Barnacle Geese were reported at Sunken Meadows S.P., *Suffolk*, NY 7 Jan+ (Sharon Brody), Cape May, NJ 17 Nov+ (PEL, m.ob.), Califon, *Hunterdon*, NJ 16 Dec-19 Feb, on the Elmer C.B.C., *Salem*,

NJ 26 Dec, and at Lawrenceville, *Mercer*, NJ 28-30 Dec. A Barnacle Goose found at Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, Long I. 30 Oct (Vicki Bustamante, m.ob.) was joined by a Pink-footed Goose 18 Nov (SSM, PL) and wintered with 3 Greater White-fronted Geese. Another Pink-footed Goose found at Stony Brook Mill Pond, *Suffolk*, NY 3 Feb+ also wintered (Saul Satin). These represent the first reports of Pink-footed in New York. Greater White-fronted Geese, predominantly of the Greenland subspecies, were reported in higher numbers than in previous years, with an astounding 10 at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ 13 Jan (Ken Tischner, Tom Bailey) and 5 in Delaware. Black Brant continue to winter in small numbers, with singles at South Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ 21 Dec (Todd Frantz), North Long Branch, *Monmouth*, NJ 16-23 Dec (SB, LM), and Indian River Inlet, *Sussex*, DE 9 Dec-20 Feb (FR), where one has wintered for the past four years. Numbers of Canada Geese and Snow Geese were significantly lower than previous winters, as the mild temperatures encouraged them to remain farther north. The number of Cackling Goose reports continues to increase, perhaps merely the result of increased observer knowledge. Four Eurasian Teal were reported: one at Prime Hook N.W.R., *Sussex*, DE 18-25 Feb (BPe), one at De Korte Park, Lyndurst NJ 2-17 Feb (John Beetham), and 2 at Massapequa Preserve, *Nassau*, NY 12 Feb (Ed Coyle). Eurasian Wigeon reports were about normal at 12, with 6 in New York, 5 in New Jersey, and one in Delaware. There were no high counts of puddle ducks this season, in part because warm weather kept the birds dispersed. Reports of Common Eiders were well below normal except for 55 on the Barnegat C.B.C., *Ocean*, NJ and 35 off Cape Henlopen S.P., *Sussex* all winter (BPe) that provided the new high count for Delaware. Ten Barrow's Goldeneyes were about normal for the Region, with 7 in the Great Lakes, one at Long Island, and 2 in New Jersey. A Pacific Loon was at Cayuga L., *Seneca*, NY 8 Nov+ (Dave Nutter, TJ); there are a few noncoastal records for the state.

GREBES THROUGH VULTURES

The Great Lakes did not freeze over completely this year, and the number of Red-necked Grebes along the coast was generally low. Seven Eared Grebes were reported, representing a good number: 2 at Sandy Hook 7 Jan (SB, LM) and singles at Dunkirk Harbor 20 Dec-4 Jan (DW), City I., Bronx, New York, NY 23 Dec (Steve Walter), Romulus, *Seneca*, NY 27-28 Dec, Keyport Harbor, *Monmouth*, NJ 6 Feb (†P. Massas), and Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 16 Feb (Nick Sly, Mike Harvey, TJ, Tim Lenz). For the 5th consecutive year, Western Grebes visited the Region, singles at



This Barnacle Goose spent the winter (here 24 February 2008) in Califon, New Jersey; the species has been recorded annually in the East for at least a decade, with an increase in records that is likely connected to expanding populations in Greenland. Photograph by Tom Smith.



An annual visitor to the mid-Atlantic states in winter, this Eurasian Teal was photographed at DeKorte Park, New Jersey 4 February 2008. Photograph by Tom Smith.

Rochester, *Monroe*, NY 23 Dec (Greg Lawrence), Dunkirk Harbor 2 Jan (Allen Benton), and Sandy Hook 29 Feb (TB). Five organized pelagic trips resulted in good numbers of offshore species being reported: trips out of Freeport, *Nassau*, NY 3 Dec and 2 Feb, Belmar, *Monmouth*, NJ 4 Jan, and Lewes, *Sussex*, DE. A total of 33 Northern Fulmars was found on four of the trips. Only 2 Brown Pelicans were reported after mid-Dec, singles on the Cape Henlopen C.B.C., *Sussex*, DE 30 Dec



The pearl of gull vagrants in a gull-rich gorge, this adult Ross's Gull was found by Willie D'Anna 27 January at Niagara Falls, New York. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

and at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ 6 Jan (Alex Tongas). By mid-Dec, virtually all wading birds had departed except for an unusual number of mostly imm. Little Blue Herons: 2 on the Cape May C.B.C., NJ 16 Dec; one on the s. Nassau County C.B.C., NY 30 Dec; one on the Barnegat C.B.C. 30 Dec; and one at Manahawkin, *Ocean*, NJ 3-5 Feb (Mike McGraw). Two were in *Salem*, NJ 17 Jan (Sandra Keller), with one remaining in the area through 3 Feb (Frank Lenik). A Green Heron lingered late, detected on the Bombay Hook C.B.C., DE 16 Dec.

HAWKS THROUGH JAEGERES

As usual, a small number of Ospreys lingered along the coast into mid-Dec, but one with 27 Bald Eagles well inland on the s. Rensselaer County C.B.C., NY 22 Dec was completely unexpected. Another Osprey at West Creek, *Ocean*, NJ 27 Jan (Tom Tarlach) was very unusual in midwinter. Three Broad-winged Hawks were reported: singles at Cape May, NJ 15-28 Dec (Pete Dunne et al.); on the Assunpink C.B.C., *Monmouth/Mercer*, NJ 16 Dec; and on the Dutchess County C.B.C., NY 1 Jan. Wintering Golden Eagles were found at Allegany S.P., *Cattaraugus*, NY 28 Dec (Jeff Reed), Cape Vincent, *Jefferson*, NY 22 Feb (Gerry Smith), and one female in the n. Catskills, *Greene*, NY that was fitted with a radio transmitter on her breeding territory at Matane Wildlife Refuge, Québec and monitored as she migrated southward. Gray-morph Gyrfalcons enlivened Indian River Inlet, *Sussex*, DE 7 Dec (BPe) and Cumberland Head, *Clinton*, NY 28 Feb (Bill Krueger, Suzy Johnson).

Yellow Rails at Belford, *Monmouth*, NJ 23 Dec (TB) and on the Captree C.B.C., *Suffolk*, NY 16 Dec (Ken & Sue Feustel) may have been wintering. Only 2 Common Moorhens

lingered into Dec, singles on the Bombay Hook C.B.C., *Kent*, DE 23 Dec and the Cape Henlopen C.B.C., *Sussex*, DE 30 Dec. The only transient Sandhill Cranes were one at Thompson Park, *Monmouth*, NJ 4-13 Dec (Patrick Belardo et al.), 7 at Hogan Pt., *Wayne*, NY 5 Dec (Gary VanNoy), and 2 at Stockport, *Columbia*, NY 9 Jan (Nancy Kern, Marion Ulmer). Fourteen local cranes continued at Husted Landing Rd., *Cumberland*, NJ, and another wintered at Taylor's Bridge, *New Castle*, DE (Albert Dager).

The 536 American Oystercatchers found on C.B.C.s in the Region were above average, highest totals were 250 at Oceanville, *Atlantic*, NJ and 228 at Cape May, NJ. Willets numbered 54 in New Jersey and 3 in New York, and 8 Marbled Godwits in New Jersey was about normal. Cape May hosted all 101 Red Knots that were found on the Region's Christmas counts. Seven Red Phalarope off Lewes, DE 8 Dec (PG et al.) furnished the only report. All 15 Laughing Gulls found on Regional C.B.C.s were coastal except for one at New Baltimore, *Greene*, NY 2 Jan that gorged itself on hamburger buns and fries (RG). A first-cycle Franklin's Gull was a great find at Dunkirk Harbor 23 Dec-2 Jan (DW). A concentration of 13 Little Gulls at Stewart Park, *Ithaca*, *Tompkins*, NY 30 Jan (JM) was very unusual. White-winged gulls were found in normal numbers despite the warmer-than-normal winter. We received two reports of first-cycle Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrids, at Fowler's Beach, *Sussex*, DE 15 Dec-2 Feb (BPe, ES) and at Phoenix, *Oswego*, NY 2-24 Jan (BP). Slaty-backed Gulls were found at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY 17 Dec (†RS) and Stewart Park, *Ithaca*, *Tompkins*, NY 22 Jan-24 Feb (JM). Another exciting find was an ad. Sabine's Gull at Dunkirk Harbor 23 Dec-4 Jan (DW, m.ob.); the species is exceedingly rare in the Region in winter. A total of 88 Black-legged Kittiwakes was reported on all five pelagic trips taken this season, while other kittiwakes were seen from shore, particularly at Montauk and along the Great Lakes. The gull of the season was the ad. Ross's Gull that frequented both sides of the Niagara River at Niagara Falls, NY and Ontario 27 Jan-1 Feb (†Willie D'Anna). The only jaeger reports were of a Pomarine on

the Lewes, DE pelagic 3 Dec (PG et al.) and a Parasitic at the Avalon Seawatch, *Cape May*, NJ 2 Dec.

ALCIDS THROUGH KINGLETS

Dovekies were observed from or onshore at Montauk, NY, Cape May, NJ, and Fowler's Beach, *Sussex*, DE. Good numbers were found on pelagic trips: 300 out of New York 3 Dec, and 106 off there 2 Feb; and 251 out of Lewes, DE 8 Dec, and 4 off there 3 Feb (PG et al.). The very high total of 49 Common Murres off Freeport, NY 2 Feb (PG et al.) furnished the only Regional report, as did the lone Thick-billed Murre found on the same trip. Razorbill numbers were well below those found in previous winters, particularly in Delaware and s. New Jersey. Four Black Guillemots observed from land represent a good number: singles at Montauk 2 Dec (RK), Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 21-22 Dec (Pat Jones, RK); Cape May 22 Dec (Jeff Vinosky); and Sandy Hook 27 Jan. The pelagic trip out of Freeport, *Nassau*, NY 2 Feb located all five of the offshore Atlantic alcid species (PG et al.), likely a first time that such has happened in the Region. Atlantic Puffins were plentiful



This Sandhill Crane wintered at Taylor's Bridge, New Castle County, Delaware (here 20 February 2008). In colonial times, Sandhill Cranes wintered in Delaware in some numbers, but during the past two centuries, the species has been recorded only infrequently (once every 8-10 years) as migrants, and this is the first Sandhill Crane detected wintering in the state in modern times. Photograph by Colin Campbell.

offshore, with 22 out of Freeport, NY 2 Dec, 10 out of there 3 Feb, and 30 out of Lewes, DE 8 Dec (all PG et al.). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves found at Selbyville, *Sussex*, DE in 1997 have increased to 20 or more birds, but they don't seem to stray from town. A White-winged Dove was a good find at Villas W.M.A., Cape May, NJ 30 Dec (Bill Boyle, Karen Thompson). Few Snowy Owls irrupted this winter, and those that did generally re-



Delaware's first Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at Fresh Pond State Park, Sussex County 29 December 2007. Photograph by Colin Campbell.

remained well n. of New Jersey.

Bohemian Waxwings staged a major irruption, with numerous counts of 50-200 throughout n. and cen. New York. Highest counts were 700 at Potsdam, *St. Lawrence*, NY (m.ob.) and 575 on the Plattsburgh C.B.C., *Clinton*, NY 16 Dec. The most southerly Bohemians were 8 or more at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean* 23-25 Dec (Alex Tongas), which established the all-time high count for New Jersey, and up to 4 at Sandy Hook 6 Jan+ (Steve Ziegler). A very late Least Flycatcher lingered at Cape May, NJ through 24 Dec (Steve Glynn). Numerous Ash-throated Flycatchers were found this past fall, and several continued into Dec. Six Ash-throateds were found during Dec, one in New York, 4 at Cape May, NJ, and one on the Rehoboth C.B.C., *Sussex* 29 Dec (ES, BPe), which established the first for Delaware. A Great Crested Flycatcher lingered at Sandy Hook until the extremely late date of 11 Dec; winter records of the species are very few n. of Florida. Only a few of the fall's many Western Kingbirds lingered into early Dec, and only one remained through mid-Jan. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher brightened Montauk 3-12 Dec (Doug Futuyima, Jimmy Woodward, Nealand Hill). The only Cave Swallows reported were at Cape May, where 98 on 29 Nov dwindled to 2 by 13 Dec (m.ob.). Black-capped Chickadees staged a major incursion into n. Delaware in Dec, and some wintered.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

An unprecedented 3 Townsend's Solitaires were found: at Sandy Hook 25 Nov+ (Tom Boyle, Mike Fahay et al.), at Oak Beach, *Suffolk*, NY 20 Dec+ (Ken Thompson et al.), and at Thompson S.P., *Albany*, NY 20 Feb (RG, Jory Langer, Leroy Suess). A typical total of 13 species of warblers was found this winter, with the least hardy species essentially limited to s. New Jersey and Delaware. Most warblers were

found on Christmas counts and had disappeared by early Jan. Most noteworthy were: a Nashville Warbler on the Cape May C.B.C., NJ 16 Dec; a Yellow-throated Warbler at Porter, *Niagara*, NY 2 Dec (Vicky Rothman); single Prairie Warblers on C.B.C.s at Cape May 16 Dec, Middletown, *Salem*, NJ 16 Dec, and Cape Henlopen, *Sussex*, DE; a Blackpoll Warbler at Cape Henlopen S.P. 7 Dec (BPe); an Ovenbird at Loudonville, *Albany*, NY 18 Dec (Cliff Lamere); a lone Northern Waterthrush at Prime Hook N.W.R., *Sussex*, DE 22-27

Dec (BPe, FR); and Wilson's Warblers on C.B.C.s at Wilmington, *New Castle*, DE 18 Dec and Seaford, *Sussex*, DE.

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in *Orleans*, NY 5 Dec (one; Dave Tetlow) at Fowler's Beach, *Sussex*, DE 24 Dec (2, with one remaining until early Feb; BPe). A Vesper Sparrow and a Le Conte's Sparrow were found on the Cape Henlopen C.B.C., *Sussex*, DE 30 Dec (Chris Bennett, Mike Smith et al.). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were found on Christmas counts at Sandy Hook 15 Dec and Middletown, *Salem*, NJ 16 Dec. Lone Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders at Cape May 12-14 Dec and Marydel, *Sussex*, DE 6 Feb (Gary French). A female Indigo Bunting amazingly survived the winter at Greece, *Monroe*, NY (Greg Lawrence, m.ob.). Four Painted Buntings visited feeders in the Region, green birds at Island Beach S.P. 7-14 Dec (Fred Lesser, Kevin Knutsen), at Newport, *New Castle*, DE 12 Jan-17 Feb, and at Georgetown, *Sussex*, DE Jan+, the latter accompanied by an ad. male (Janet Davidson). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds brightened Ringoes, *Hunterdon*, NJ 17-18 Feb (FS et al.). The only Brewer's Blackbird report came from Pennsville Township, *Salem*, where up to 3 wintered in 2006-2007 (David Larsen). A few Baltimore Orioles were observed, primarily in

New Jersey, but cooler fall temperatures likely caused most birds to depart early. An ad. male Bullock's Oriole lingered at Cape May, NJ 27 Nov-2 Dec (PEL) for the 5th state record.

Beginning this past fall and continuing through Dec, winter finches poured into n. New York and then moved southward. By the end of Dec, the forward momentum of the southern wave ebbed. By all accounts, this was definitely a major irruption for Pine Grosbeaks. Flocks of 10-20 were common throughout n. New York, with the largest numbers in the Adirondacks, such as 170 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 30 Dec. A few grosbeaks made it to New Jersey, with the southernmost bird at Island Beach S.P. 24 Dec (†George Nixon). Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, and Pine Siskins abandoned their n. New York strongholds by mid-Dec, and all except White-winged Crossbills made modest appearances to s. New Jersey and Delaware. Common Redpolls staged a major irruption and appeared in large numbers throughout New York; the highest total was 975 on the Saranac Lake C.B.C. 30 Dec. At the height of the movement, 2 redpolls were photographed



This hardy Ovenbird was photographed at Columbia, Warren County, New Jersey 20 January 2008. Photograph by Brian Hardiman.

96 km out of Freeport, Long I., NY 2 Dec, when they landed onboard to rest. By the time the movement of Common Redpolls had ended, only a few birds had reached Cape May and coastal Delaware. Accompanying some of the Common Redpolls were Hoary Redpolls, with more than 30 reports this season, all in New

SA One of the most interesting and cooperative birds of the season was an imm. male **Scott's Oriole** that wintered at Union Square Park, Manhattan, NY 4 Dec+ (Alice Deutsch et al., ph. Ardiht Bondi) and that furnished the first for New York. Scott's Oriole is a relatively short-range migrant. Phil Utt of the San Diego Natural History Museum wrote that it "is a facultative or opportunistic migrant, more migrating in cold, wet winters, more staying in mild, dry winters like the last. Possibly, large-scale climate change is playing a role, warmer weather allowing birds to winter farther north than previously." With two records of Scott's Oriole this past winter, in Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and two this winter in the East (the other in Conover, NC), we may be witnessing a new pattern of vagrancy for this species.



This Clay-colored Sparrow at Fowler's Beach, Sussex County, Delaware 27 December 2007 was observed well into February 2008 and was the only one to winter in the Hudson-Delaware region. Photograph by Ed Sigda.

York. It was a very good season for Evening Grosbeaks, with numbers well above average for the past 10 years; the maximum count was 280 at Betchellerville, Fulton, NY 3 Feb (Ron Harrower).

Contributors cited (subregional compilers in boldface): Deborah Allen (Central Park), Scott Barnes (North Coast, NJ, Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 553, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732), Michael Bochnik (Hudson-Delaware: 86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger (St. Lawrence, NY: 98 State Street, Canton, NY 13617), Tom Boyle, Michael Britt (Piedmont, NJ: 47 Avenue B, Bayonne, NJ 07002), Thomas W. Burke (New York RBA), Paul Driver (Lower Delaware Valley: 915 Melrose Avenue, Elkins Park, PA 19027), Vince Elia (South Coast & Delaware Bay, NJ: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Route 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08120), Dick Gershon, Paul Guris, Rich Guthrie, Tom Johnson, Richard Kaskan, Laurie Larson (New Jersey Birds list-serv), Paul Lehman (PEL, New Jersey Birds list-serv), Pat Lindsay (Long Island: 28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706), Linda Mack, Jay McGowan, Hugh McGuinness (e. Long I.: 12 Round Pond Lane, Sag Harbor, NY 11963), S. S. Mitra (Long I.: Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Stat-

en Island, NY 10314), Mike Morgante (Niagara Frontier: 59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127), Bill Ostrander (Finger Lakes: 80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904), Bruce Peterjohn (BPe), John M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain: 477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Bill Purcell (Oneida Lake Basin: 281 Baum Road, Hastings, NY 13076), Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Frank Sencher Jr. (Northwestern, NJ: 43 Church Road, Milford, NJ 08848), Ed Sigda, Robert Spahn (Genesee, NY), David Wheeler, Will Yandik (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: 269 Schneider Road, Hudson, NY 12534), Matthew A. Young (Susquehanna: 2910 Crumb Hill Road, Georgetown, NY 13072). 🌐

Frank Rohrbacher, 5 Neva Court

Wilmington, DE 19810, (rohrbaf@aol.com)

Robert O. Paxton, 400 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72
New York, New York 10027, (rop1@columbia.edu)

Richard R. Veit, Department of Biology
College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, New York 10314, (veitr2003@yahoo.com)

Southern Atlantic



Ricky Davis

This season continued a string of several consecutive mild winters in the Region, with above-average temperatures. Precipitation was generally below average during the first half of the season and average during the second half. Snowfall was practically non-existent from the Piedmont to the coast. Waterfowl numbers were increased in a few locations but generally were down Regionwide. Red-breasted Nuthatches and winter finches were above average, representing a nice change from the past several years. Highlights included the first Smith's Longspur and the continuing Green-breasted Mango in Georgia, and the first live MacGillivray's Warbler and first Scott's Oriole in North Carolina.

Abbreviations: Huntington Beach (Huntington Beach S.P., Georgetown, SC); Mattamuskeet (L. Mattamuskeet N.W.R., Hyde, NC); Pea I. (Pea I. N.W.R., Dare, NC); Savannah Spoil (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are definitely entrenched in s.-cen. South Carolina, as evidenced by the count of 211 on the ACE Basin C.B.C. 30 Dec (*fide* ND). Geese were widely reported this winter; highlights were up to 21 Greater White-fronted Geese at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 30 Dec+ (AB, RD, LM), record numbers of Snow Geese in e. North Carolina, Ross's Geese in all three states, and 4 Cackling Geese (one in Georgia and 3 in North Carolina). The continuing pair of Mottled Ducks at Sunset Beach, NC wintered and were joined by another male 11 Dec (RCI). Another male Mottled was paired with a female Mallard at nearby Ocean Isle Beach, NC 7 Feb (RCI). After a several-year hiatus, a Eurasian Teal was found on the L. Mattamuskeet C.B.C. 29 Dec (RD). Common Eiders were found in all three states, with one s. to Cumberland I., GA 31 Dec (*fide* JFI) and 3 at the Cedar I., NC ferry terminal 25 Jan–3 Feb (CM, JF, JFe et al.). Inland scoters were reported more frequently than usual this winter, especially in Georgia,

where all three species were noted. Rare inland, Long-tailed Duck reports included 3 at L. Keowee, SC 14 Dec (PC) and singles at Fort Yargo S.P., GA 21 Jan (BB, EH, m.ob.) and Blewett Falls L., NC 26 Jan (LGa et al.). Two Common Mergansers on the L. Wateree, SC C.B.C. 3 Jan (*fide* DSI) and 4 at L. Waccamaw, NC 25 Jan–21 Feb (GM, HS, JF) were locally rare. Noteworthy reports of inland Red-throated Loons included one or 2 at L. Lanier, GA 27 Jan (BB) and 2 Feb (McS) and one at L. Murray, SC 30 Jan (RC, CE). Notable Red-necked Grebes were at L. Crabtree, Wake, NC 20 Dec+ (DS, m.ob.), Bulls I., SC 22 Dec (ND), and the Shallotte R., Brunswick, NC 8 Jan (RS). Eared Grebes at Jordan L., NC 26 Dec–8 Jan (HL, KF, RD) and Murrell's Inlet, SC 5 Jan–23 Feb (ND, RSI, RD, JK) were rare.

Northern Fulmars were off North Carolina in small numbers on at least four trips each during Jan and Feb (BPI). A Greater Shearwater off Hatteras 17 Feb (BPI) provided the 5th winter report for North Carolina. Manx Shearwaters were found off North Carolina and Georgia, with the 10 off Tybee I. 9 Dec (BZ et al.) possibly setting a record for the latter state. The most noteworthy reports of the increasing American White Pelican involved 560 on the ACE Basin, SC C.B.C. 30 Dec (*fide* PL), 100 at Pea I. 4 Jan (EC), and 12 inland at



Georgia's second documented Snowy Plover was this individual, which frequented Jekyll Island 29 December 2007 and into the spring season (here 8 January 2008). Photograph by Dan Vickers.

High Rock L., Rowan, NC 16 Feb (AS). Rare inland was a Brown Pelican at L. Walter F. George Dam, GA 27 Jan (*fide* TM). Also unusual inland were 2 Great Cormorants at Jordan L., NC 8 Jan (RD). Anhingas continue to winter in the Carolinas in increasing numbers, as evidenced by the record count of 270 on the Sun City–Okatie, SC C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* HC). Another Anhinga was far inland on the Wayne County, NC C.B.C. (*fide* ED). Very rare and unexpected during winter were Magnificent Frigatebirds at Cumberland I., GA 15 Dec (SJ, PK) and near Avon, NC 17 Feb (ph. LM); the latter bird represented about the 5th winter report for that state. Wading bird numbers seemed reduced, although Reddish Egrets were reported from all three states. One at Mattamuskeet 9–29 Dec (JL, GH et al.) most likely provided the most northerly report for the species during winter (anywhere in the United States?). Also providing rare seasonal occurrences in the Region were 5 Roseate Spoonbills at Savannah Spoil (SC) in Dec and a lone Wood Stork near Fuquay–Varina, Wake, NC 23 Feb (RiC). A White-tailed Kite observed sporadically in Richland 16 Dec–31 Jan (JG, RC, CE, MM) furnished about the 12th report for South Carolina. Only one Rough-legged Hawk was reported, from the usual Alligator River N.W.R., NC area 30 Dec–2 Feb (JF, m.ob.). Golden Eagles were noted in all three states in increased numbers; all reports were of singles except for 2 in e. Guilford, NC 16 Feb (DC, KF).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Always of interest during winter, Black Rails were noted on the Southport, NC C.B.C. 4 Jan (SCo et al.), on the Wilmington, NC C.B.C. (GM), and at St. Marys, Camden, GA 28 Jan (PS). Very rare in the mts. was the Common Moorhen that wintered in Henderson, NC

(WF, RSe, MW). Georgia again hosted Limpkins, with 2 that wintered at Reed Bingham S.P. (*fide* SW) and one at Georgia Veterans Memorial S.P., Crisp 20 Dec–3 Jan (TJ, *fide* KB). Sandhill Crane numbers were up this season: 6600 were northbound in nw. Cobb, GA 12 Feb (CS), providing a record for the Atlanta area. The best counts of Sandhills outside the usual migration corridor were 9 in se. Guilford, NC 4 Dec (*fide* DB), 20 on the Santee N.W.R., SC C.B.C. 29 Dec (*fide* RC), and 9 or more in extreme se. Halifax, NC 27 Jan+ (RD, DC).

Georgia's 2nd Snowy Plover at Jekyll I. 29 Dec+ (WC) likely was the same individual as seen at St. Simons I. 18 Feb (*fide* LT). Wilson's Plovers winter regularly in small numbers, thus a count of 51 on the St. Catherine's I., GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* EU) was most impressive. Rare was the Black-necked Stilt that wintered at Savannah Spoil through 14 Feb (SC). Spotted Sandpipers are also regular during winter, but 32 on the Sun City–Okatie, SC C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* HC) was a downright astonishing number. The best Long-billed Curlew numbers were 3 at Little St. Simons I. 28 Jan (BZ et al.) and 7 that wintered at Cape Romain N.W.R., SC (ND). Water levels were low in North Carolina reservoirs during much of the winter, and the continuing mudflats enticed some rare inland winter shorebirds. Falls L. hosted a Ruddy Turnstone 17 Dec and a Sanderling 17 Feb (BBo), while a Western Sandpiper was found at Jordan L. 22 Dec (DC). The presence of a Pectoral Sandpiper at Oxbow Meadows, Columbus, GA 11 Jan (WC) was most unusual. This winter's Stilt Sandpiper reports were 31 on the Hilton Head I., SC C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* NL), 20 on the Savannah, GA C.B.C. 5 Jan (*fide* SC), and 2 at Bear I. W.M.A., SC 16 Feb (STr). All three phalaropes were found this winter—a very rare event. A

Wilson's Phalarope wintered at Savannah Spoil through 14 Feb (SC), a Red-necked Phalarope was at Salt Pond, Cape Hatteras, Dare, NC 27 Dec (CEL, RD, m.ob.), and good numbers of Red Phalaropes were noted off-

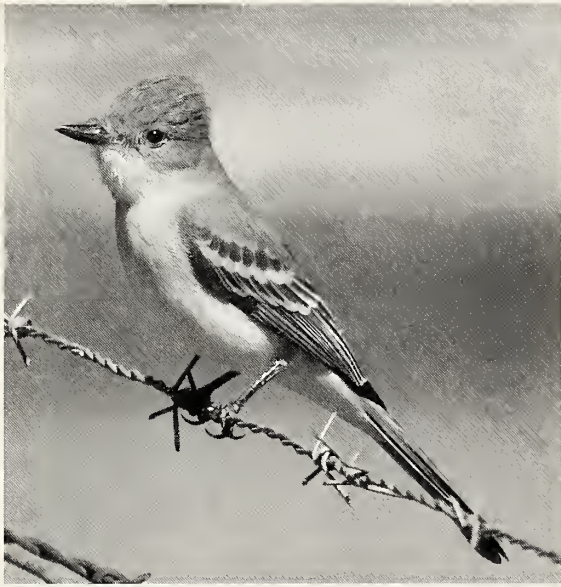
shore, with the best count being 500+ off Tybee I., GA 9 Dec (BZ et al.).

Little Gull reports were highlighted by a somewhat early bird at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (RD) and a peak of 3 off Hatteras, NC 2 Feb (BPI). The Mattamuskeet causeway Black-headed Gull returned again this winter (m.ob.). This was a good winter for California Gulls, with 2 (an ad. and a second-cycle bird) at Oregon Inlet, NC 28 Dec (JF, NM) and singles at Cape Hatteras 3 Dec (BP) and off Hatteras 19 & 23 Jan (BPI). Only one Thayer's Gull was noted, an ad. on the Cape Hatteras C.B.C. 27 Dec (BP, GA). There were at least five reports each of Iceland Gulls and Glaucous Gulls, about normal for the Region. Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers too seemed typical. Numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes offshore were reduced, but singles at Kill Devil Hills, NC 15 Dec (RD) and Cape Hatteras 12 Jan (BP) were noteworthy along the shore. Sandwich Terns usually depart by Dec, thus of note were duos on C.B.C.s at Cumberland I., GA 15 Dec (*fide* SW) and Winyah Bay, SC 20 Dec (*fide* LG), plus one on the Sun City–Okatie, SC C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* HC). As usual, Great Skuas were found regularly on trips off Hatteras, with up to 3 in Jan–Feb (BPI). The best jaeger reports included 2 Pomarines on the St. Catherine's I., GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* EU), 5 Parasitics at Jekyll I., GA 27 Jan (BZ et al.), and 3 Parasitics off Tybee I. 9 Dec (BZ et al.). Alcids began appearing in late Dec and were reported frequently. Dovekie



The Green-breasted Mango that first appeared at a Dublin, Georgia feeder in late autumn 2007 (here 2 February 2008) remained through the winter and into spring. Photograph by Rachel Cass.

numbers were up, highlighted by 80 off Hatteras 26 Jan and 100 there 2 Feb (BP), and 6 near Southport, NC 16 Jan (JR). There were about 12 other sightings of one or 2 Dovekies in North Carolina, including some moribund



This Ash-throated Flycatcher was present in Baker County, Georgia 16-23 (here 19) February 2008 and was only about the second Ash-throated to be conclusively documented in that state. Photograph by Darlene Moore.

on beaches. Razorbills also were noted in good numbers, with the best counts being 70+ off Hatteras 26 Jan and 35 there 2 Feb (BP), 16 at Coquina Beach, NC 17 Feb (RD), and 6 birds 64 km off Charleston, SC 8 Feb (*fide* ND). Easily the most unexpected alcid this winter was the Black Guillemot at Huntington Beach 29 Dec–3 Feb (GG, JK, m.ob.) that provided the 3rd report for South Carolina. Two or 3 Atlantic Puffins were noted on each of five trips off Hatteras in Jan–Feb (BPI).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

This winter's White-winged Dove reports involved one at Tybee I. through 14 Dec (CK), one or 2 at Savannah 9-26 Jan (SWa, m.ob.), and one at Myrtle Beach, SC 27 Feb (*fide* ND). The continuing Common Ground-Dove at Carter's L., GA was seen again in early Dec (TH), providing a most unusual report from that upper Piedmont locality. Other notable ground-dove reports were 2 on the L. Oconee, GA C.B.C. 23 Dec (*fide* PS) and 4 in s. Richland, SC 31 Dec (RC, CE). Northern Saw-whet Owls were present again this winter in all three states. Goatsuckers made news this winter with an unidentified nighthawk glimpsed on the Pamlico County, NC C.B.C. 18 Dec (OJ et al.); single Chuck-wills-widows on C.B.C.s at Sun City–Okatie, SC 16 Dec (*fide* HC), Bodie–Pea I., NC 28 Dec (JF, HA, GA), and at Bulls I., Cape Romain N.W.R., SC 22 Dec (ND); and a Whip-poor-will near Ridgeway, SC 2 Dec (DSI). Hummingbirds caused much excitement in the Region. The continuing Green-breasted Mango at Dublin, GA remained into spring (L&MJ, m.ob.).

South Carolina's 2nd Broad-billed Hummingbird, a male, enlivened Rockville, Wadmalaw I., Charleston mid-Dec–Jan (A&DP, BH, m.ob.). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird banded at Durham, NC 26 Jan (SCb) provided a rare winter report for the Piedmont. Several Black-chinned and Rufous Hummingbirds were scattered throughout the Region in each of the three states. Calliope Hummingbirds were evident this winter, with at least 2 found in each state. Georgia's Broad-tailed Hummingbird from this past winter returned to the Mableton yard early Dec+ (RT). Likewise, South Carolina's first Allen's Hummingbird from this past winter returned to the same Lexington yard 17 Dec+ (DCu, DSI).

Flycatcher numbers were reduced, but nevertheless some rarities were located. A Say's Phoebe found along Cobb–Cheek Rd., Sumter 22 Dec (BZ, DV, m.ob.) furnished about the 5th report for Georgia. Vermilion Flycatcher reports involved the presumed returning female that wintered at Bradley Unit, Eufaula N.W.R., GA (m.ob.), another female in Sumter, GA 22 Dec–Jan (BZ, DV, m.ob.), and an imm. at Slanns I., Charleston, SC 13-18 Jan (ND, m.ob.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found along Baker Rd., Baker, GA 16-23 Feb (FG, McS, DM et al.). Western Kingbirds were found in all three states, with 4 on the Cumberland I., GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (SJ, PK). A rare montane Loggerhead Shrike was a good find in Henderson, NC 30 Dec–Feb (m.ob., *fide* MW). Fish Crows normally vacate the Piedmont during winter, but "several" have been reported among American Crow flocks at Greensboro, NC over the past two winters (MW). Horned Larks are rather rare during winter at the Outer Banks; thus of interest were 5-6 that remained at Cape Hatteras 27 Dec–17 Feb (PM et al., m.ob.).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows are rare in the Region during winter, so singles on the Augusta, GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* AW) and at Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. wetlands 29-30 Jan (ED) were noteworthy. Cave Swallows once again lingered from the fall season, with best counts being 3 at Mattamuskeet 29 Dec (RD), 15 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 31 Dec (HL), with 5 remaining through 7

Jan (RK), 3 at Pea I. 2 Jan (DC), and up to 10 at Pawleys I., SC 2-3 Jan (WA, JPe et al.). Two Barn Swallows at Harris Neck N.W.R., GA 15 Dec (JFI, EH) were rather late. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present across the Region in good numbers, providing the best irruptive flight for this species in many years. A Sprague's Pipit at Marshallville sod farm, Macon 30 Dec–12 Jan (DBo, JBo, PS, BBI) provided the 10th or 11th report for Georgia.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Four Northern Parulas in the Region for the winter represented an atypically high count, with singles on C.B.C.s at Augusta, GA 15 Dec (*fide* AW) and Cumberland I. 15 Dec (*fide* SW), and at Fort Fisher, NC 4 Jan (RD) and Meggett, SC 19 Jan (CSn). Yellow Warblers were noted at Mattamuskeet 27 Dec (AB), the ACE Basin, SC C.B.C. 30 Dec (ND), and Savannah Spoil 5 Jan (SC). A Magnolia Warbler was an extremely good find at the Georgetown, SC W.T.P. 13 Jan (*fide* ND) and furnished just the 2nd mid-winter report for the Carolinas. Yellow-throated Warblers were common in the Region, with C.B.C. high counts of 63 at Sun City–Okatie, SC 16 Dec (*fide* HC), 38 at Hilton Head I. 15 Dec (*fide* NL), and 4 at Santee N.W.R., SC 29 Dec (*fide* RC). Another Yellow-throated at Raleigh, NC 15 Dec (CSm et al.) was locally very rare. Reports of Prairie Warblers were highlighted by 5 at North River Farms, Carteret, NC 25 Dec (JF), and singles inland at Charlotte, NC 4-22



Georgia's first Smith Longspur was found at a sod farm in Macon County 24 December 2007 and remained until at least 12 (here 5) January 2008. Many people saw this bird, which was in the company of several Lapland Longspurs and a Sprague's Pipit! Photograph by Dan Vickers.

Dec (TP) and on the Floyd County, GA C.B.C. 30 Dec (*fide* OK). Another very rare winter warbler is American Redstart; singles brightened Savannah N.W.R., SC 3 Jan (SK) and near Statesville, Iredell, NC 27 Feb (PP). The Cape Hatteras C.B.C. tallied an impressive total of 19 Ovenbirds 27 Dec (JF, PS et al.). Northern Waterthrushes were reported at Altamaha W.M.A., GA 30 Dec (BZ, EH) and Sa-

vannah Spoil 5 Jan (*fide* SC). A MacGillivray's Warbler photographed at Mattamuskeet 29 Dec and 1 Jan (RD; AB, DC, HL et al.) should furnish the 2nd record for North Carolina. Amazingly, the first record was a road-killed bird found fewer than 15 km away! Male Wilson's Warblers were at Mattamuskeet 1 & 29 Dec (JGe, RD et al.), Altamaha W.M.A., GA 30 Dec (BZ, EH), and North River Farms, Carteret, NC 13 Jan (JF et al.). Three Summer Tanagers were found in North Carolina: presumably the same male returned to Gloucester, Carteret for the 2nd year (*fide* JF); another wintered at Morehead City (*fide* JF); and



This Scott's Oriole spent the period of late (here 30) January through at least 10 February 2008 at feeders in Conover, North Carolina—a first for the state and second for the Southern Atlantic region, the first being in Upson County, Georgia in November 2002. Photograph by Ricky Davis.

one was noted at Trentwoods, Craven 17 Dec–4 Jan (JH). Western Tanagers were much less evident this season, with three reports: a male wintered at Conway, SC for the 2nd year (GP); a male was at Thrushwood, Lexington, SC 28 Jan (MC); and one was at Skidaway I., GA 7 Feb (*fide* TM).

Two American Tree Sparrows were good finds on the Alligator River N.W.R., NC C.B.C. 30 Dec (*fide* JL). Clay-colored Sparrows were mentioned in all three states, with the best counts being up to 6 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA late Dec–late Jan (m.ob.) and 4–6 near L. Phelps, NC 27 Dec+ (AB, m.ob.). The only Lark Sparrows were one at Tybee I., GA through 14 Dec (CK) and 2 on the Pee Dee N.W.R., NC C.B.C. 29 Dec (JW et al.). Of a handful of Grasshopper Sparrows found this winter, 2 near Carters L., GA 5 Jan (*fide* JSp) and one on the Pinewood, SC C.B.C. 4 Jan (*fide* RC) were the most inland. Georgia again

hosted a majority of the Henslow's Sparrows reported, with the best count typically from Paulk's Pasture W.M.A., where 10 were noted 17 Feb (McS et al.). Le Conte's Sparrow reports included singles in e. Pamlico, NC 18 Dec (JF et al.) and on the Pinewood, SC C.B.C. 4 Jan (*fide* RC), 2 at Savannah Spoil 5 Jan (SC), and 3 at North River Farms, Carteret, NC 10 Feb+ (JF et al.). Lincoln's Sparrows were found in average numbers, with 2 near Southport, NC 4 Jan (GM et al.) representing the only count of multiple birds. An Oregon Junco photographed at Greensboro, NC 21 Feb (*fide* JPa) furnished the first Regional report in several years. This season's noteworthy Lapland Longspur reports included 3 at Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC 13 Dec (WF), up to 6 at the Marshallville, GA sod farm 31 Dec–12 Jan (JFI, EH, m.ob.), 2 at Savannah Spoil 5 Jan (*fide* SC), and 5 at Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 26 Jan (HL, EL). The Marshallville sod farm also hosted a Smith's Longspur 24 Dec–12 Jan (WC, PS et al.) that provided a first for Georgia. The best counts of Snow Buntings included 13 at Cape Hatteras 26 Jan (BY, RP), 10 on the Portsmouth I., NC C.B.C. 31 Dec (PV et al.), and 5 at Huntington Beach 4 Jan (*fide* ND). Another near Pungo L., NC 2 Feb (DC) was rare inland.

A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak lingered at Fairfield Harbour, Craven, NC 8–17 Dec (IP), and an imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak visited a Dunwoody, DeKalb, GA feeder mid-Jan–25 Feb (*fide* SB). Lingering Indigo Buntings were noted inland at Evergreen Natural Preserve, Mecklenburg, NC 9 Dec (L&LB) and on the coast at Southport, NC 4 Jan (GM et al.). The most interesting Painted Bunting reports were 9 on the Southport, NC C.B.C. 4 Jan (GM et al.), 5 that wintered in one yard at Marshallberg, Carteret, NC (*fide* JF), and males far inland at Princeton, NC 20 Jan (DR) and Goldsboro, NC 27–30 Jan (ED, CD).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in all three states this winter, all singles except for 2 males in Houston, GA 12 Jan (DV et al.). Some encouraging counts of the declining Rusty Blackbird were noted on C.B.C.s, such as 1143 at ACE Basin, SC 30 Dec (ND) and 816 at Chapel Hill, NC 23 Dec (*fide* WCo). Bullock's Orioles were noted in Georgia around Banks Dairy, Bulloch 9 Dec (*fide* RW) and at Dublin 7–9 Feb (*fide* JS). North Carolina's first Scott's Oriole, a first-year male at Conover, Catawba late Jan–10 Feb (B&DD, DM, m.ob.), was part of a small movement into the e. United States this season.

The best counts of Red Crossbills were 21 at Dawson W.M.A., GA 31 Dec (BZ), 14 at Cherry Log W.M.A., GA 26 Feb (*fide* TM),

and 6 at Sandy Mush, Buncombe, NC 23 Feb (JGi). Common Redpolls were unusually widespread, with 12 at Balsam Mountain Preserve, Jackson, NC 30 Nov–1 Dec (*fide* DH) and singles at Durham, NC 11 Dec (RB), Whispering Pines, Moore, NC 16 Dec (SCb), Nags Head, NC 4 Jan (SM), and Bakers Mountain Park, Catawba, NC 6 Jan (*fide* DM). No Evening Grosbeaks were reported, despite the handful of teaser sightings this past fall.

Contributors cited: Wendy Allen, George L. Armistead, Harry Armistead, Ryan Bakelaar, Larry & Louise Barden (L&LB), Steve Barlow, Brandon Best, Bill Blakeslee (BBI), Ken Blankenship, Brian Bockhahn (BBo), Devin Bosler (DBo), Justin Bosler (JBo), Allen Bryan, Dennis Burnette, Steve Calver, Susan Campbell (SCb), Derb Carter, Richard Carter (RiC), Robin Carter, Walt Chambers, Paul Champlin, Helen Chatterton, Marion Clark, Randy Climpson (RCI), Will Cook (WCo), Sam Cooper (SCo), Ed Corey, Doreen Cubie (DCu), Ricky Davis, Celia Dean, Eric Dean, Nate Dias, Becky and Dan Duggan (B&DD), Caroline Eastman, Chris Eley (CEI), Jack Fennell (JFe), Kent Fiala, Jim Flynn (JFI), Wayne Forsythe, John Fussell, Lena Gallitano (LGa), John Gerwin (JGe), Jason Giovannone (JGi), Lex Glover, Frank Goff, Gary Graves, John Grego, Joanne Harley, Theresa Hartz, Don Hendershot, Bill Hilton, Jr., Earl Horn, Pierre Howard, Gene Howe, Wayne Irvin, Laurie & Marshall Jackson (L&MJ), Olwen Jarvis, Stephen Johnson, Terry Johnson, Cheryl Kanes, Panos Kanes, Jerry Kerschner, Steve Kilpatrick, Own Kinney, Rick Knight, Pete Laurie, Edmund LeGrand, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Lewis, Nan Lloyd, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Dwayne Martin, Mark McShane (McS), Larry Meade, Neal Moore, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Skip Morgan, Matthew Moskwik, Jenny Palmer (JPa), Inge Parker, Brian Patteson, Inc. (BPI), Rick Payne, Jack Peachey (JPe), Gary Phillips, Taylor Piephoff, Annabeth & Donald Proctor (A&DP), Diane Rose, Juanita Roushdy, Chuck Saleeby, Harry Sell, Ron Selvey (RSe), Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Anthony Sharum, Roy Slack (RSI), Donna Slyce (DSL), Clyde Smith (CSm), Roger Smith, Cherrie Sneed (CSn), Joshua Spence (JSp), Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Steve Tracey (STr), Rusty Trump, Emil K. Urban, Peter Vankevich, Dan Vickers, Steve Wagner (SWa), Judy Walker, Phil Warren, Anne Waters, Marilyn Westphal, Melissa Whitmire (MWh), Russ Wigh, Sheila Willis, Bruce Young, Bob Zarembo. 🐦

Ricky Davis, 608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804, (RJDNC@aol.com)



Bruce H. Anderson

This season was rather mild, with a single freeze 3 January that extended into the central peninsula, bringing freezing temperatures and frost briefly into some portions of the southern peninsula. Rainfall was about normal in the northern regions, slightly wetter than normal in the central peninsula, but below normal farther south. Compared to the previous two winters, numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were much reduced, and waxwings were mostly absent in the central and southern areas until late February. After the January freeze, American Goldfinch numbers declined in those areas and did not recover before the season's end. Many rare gulls were noted, especially Iceland Gull. Three of our rarest hummingbird species, Broad-billed, Anna's, and Broad-tailed, visited the panhandle. The only confirmed West Indian vagrant was a Bananaquit at Hollywood.

Abbreviations: F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); UF (Florida State Museum at the University of Florida).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CARACARAS

Rarely reported in the Big Bend, 8 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Tallahassee, Leon 30 Dec (C.B.C.). Eleven Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were n. to Emerald Marsh C.A., Lake 2 Feb (JD). The only reports of Greater White-fronted Geese were 7 in Jackson (PCh, AB) and 2 in Alachua (RR et al.). Snow Geese were rare even in n. Florida; elsewhere, 5 were in Brevard (C.B.C.), with singles in Pasco (Don Robinson et al.) and Miami-Dade (C.B.C.). One Ross's Goose was at Fort Walton Beach Spray Fields, Okaloosa 3

Dec (DWA), and 2 graced Sneads, Jackson 26 Dec–5 Jan (PCh, AB, m.ob.). Three Brant were photographed at Canaveral N.S., Brevard 10 Dec (fide DF), while 2 were photographed at Ponce de Leon Inlet 30–31 Jan (Tony Menart, MBr et al.). The Eurasian Wigeon at Merritt Island N.W.R., Brevard was last reported 14 Jan (Jim Eager). Rare in the Region, 6 American Black Ducks were reported in three counties: Holmes (RoS), Alachua (JoH et al.), and Brevard (DBA). Six Florida

Christmas counts reported a total of 323 Mallard $\times$ Mottled Duck hybrids. A male Cinnamon Teal enlivened Viera Wetlands, Brevard 6 Dec (DF). Greater Scaups were inland near the s. limits of their coastal range in Florida in Brevard (TD), Orange (Renne Leatto), and Seminole (PH). A first-year male Common Eider at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia 7 Dec was wrapped in monofilament line and sadly became Florida's 4th specimen (MBr, *UF). Few scoters were reported. Surfs were in Franklin (3; AB, PCh), Volusia (4; MBr, Brevard (2; C.B.C.)), and far s. in Collier (up to 5; TB et al.). Reports of lone White-winged Scoters came from Okaloosa (DWA), Brevard (Mitchell Harris) and Pinellas (Judi Hopkins, RoS et al.), with 2 others in Volusia (MBr). Our "commonest" scoter, Black, was unusually scarce, with 4 each reaching s. in the peninsula to Hillsborough (C.B.C.) and Brevard (DF). Long-tailed Duck sightings were a female in Franklin (PCh, AB) 25 Dec and 5 Jan (JM), a female in St. Johns 16 Feb (fide Diane Reed), and singles in Volusia 7 Dec (MBr) and Brevard 15–17 Dec (Roy Book, DF, C.B.C.). Two Buffleheads strayed southward to Sarasota 1 Jan (Tom Allen), and at least one female reached Charlotte 8–15 Dec (Tom Zinneman, C.B.C.). Casual on the Atlantic coast, a female Common Goldeneye was photographed at Merritt I. in Feb (TD).

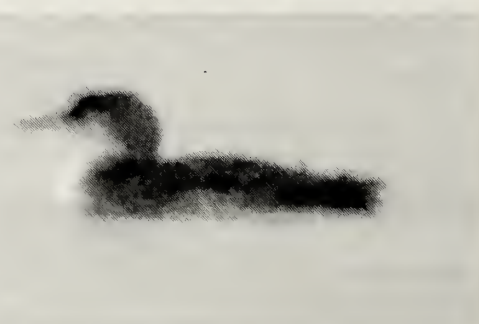
Lake Weir, Marion hosted 70 Common Loons, 375 Horned Grebes, and 2 Red-throated Loons 14 Dec (RR, ES, †Angela Luzader), the latter furnishing Florida's 12th inland report. Other Red-throateds included singles in Duval (C.B.C.), Brevard (m.ob.), and Wakulla (C.B.C.), and 2 in Franklin (JM, AB et al.). Casual along the Atlantic coast, a Pacific Loon



This first-year male Common Eider, found alive at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County, Florida 7 December 2007, was wrapped in monofilament and had hooks in its tongue and left foot. Photograph by Michael Brothers.

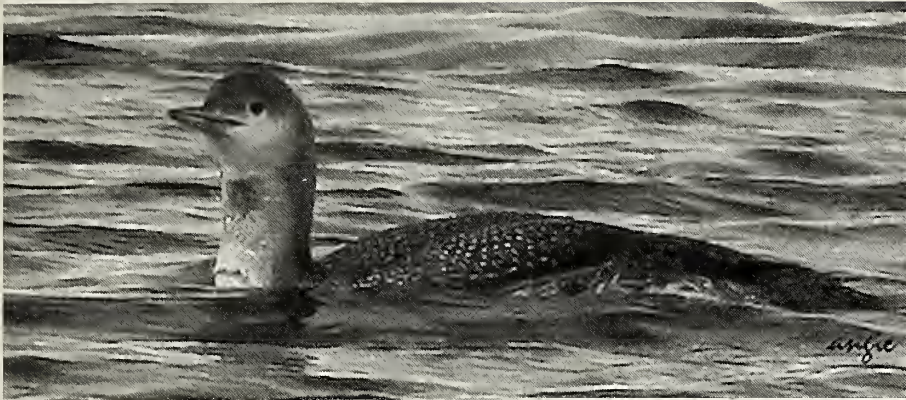
wintered at Titusville, Brevard 29 Dec–3 Feb (DF, m.ob.), while one in Martin 21 Jan was a one-day-wonder (DS). Three Audubon's Shearwaters were found 30+ nm off Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 Jan (PLh, MBr et al.). Two Brown Boobies were on the Key Largo–Plantation Key C.B.C., Monroe 14 Dec (†BM), and an imm. continued at St. Augustine, St. Johns, where it was fed by fishermen (m.ob.). Presumably returning for its 2nd year, a Great Cormorant perched on the same post as the previous winter at John U. Lloyd S.P., Broward 16 Dec–31 Jan (m.ob.). An imm. Great took up residence at Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 Dec+ (m.ob.).

A Great White Heron attended a nest with a Great Blue Heron in Sarasota 1 Dec+ (R. Greenspun), while another Great White was inland to Stormwater Treatment Area 5,



Casual along the Florida Atlantic coast, this Pacific Loon remained in Titusville, Brevard County 29 December 2007 through 3 February 2008 (here 26 January). Photograph by Dave Lapsey.

Hendry 18 Feb (†Bill & Eleanor Marr). Also at the latter location, an unbanded ad. American Flamingo of unknown provenance lingered 16–18 Feb (ME et al.). A report of an unbanded flamingo came from J. N. "Ding" Darling N.W.R., Lec 31 Dec–1 Jan (fide CE). Although American Flamingos were not reported at their historic site at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., Monroe, a subad. was found farther e. in Florida Bay near Manatee Key, with 2 others



Two Red-throated Loons that touched down on Lake Weir, Marion County, Florida 15 December 2008 provided the state's twelfth inland report for this species. Photograph by Angie Luzader.

at Crab Keys (both BM). At least one possibly "pure" Scarlet Ibis has been reported sporadically in Lee since the early 1990s; one wintered with White Ibis (*fide* CE). Farther s. in Collier, a pink ibis, likely a White Ibis $\times$ Scarlet Ibis hybrid, was seen at Briggs Nature Center 27 Jan (Alan Murray). Now reported annually in Florida, a White-faced Ibis was identified at Merritt I. 6 Jan (DS).

The earliest returning Swallow-tailed Kite was in Okeechobee 16 Feb (PMi). In the panhandle, single Swallow-taileds were at different Santa Rosa locations 18 & 22 Feb (Bill Bremser, Dana Timmons). Rare and local in the s. peninsula, White-tailed Kites were found in Miami-Dade (RD, JHB), Okeechobee (2; PMi), Highlands (2; C.B.C.), Osceola (BS), and Orange, where lone kites wandered n. of their known breeding range at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area 24 Jan (HR)

Black-Hawk was photographed at Virginia Key, where one has been noted annually since 2004 (RD). Broad-winged Hawks lingered in the cen. peninsula in Brevard (*fide* DF) and Pinellas until 15 Dec (LA), and in Orange until 21 Dec (C.B.C.). An early Broad-winged appeared at Merritt I. 20 Feb (DF). Most Short-tailed Hawks retreat to the s. peninsula and Keys to winter. In the cen. peninsula, late Short-taileds graced Brevard 15 & 17 Dec (C.B.C., CG) and Seminole 22 Dec (C.B.C.); one at Avon Park, Highlands 2 Jan may have wintered. The earliest northward migrant Short-tailed was found at Orlando Wetlands 10 Feb (EK, Cheri Pierce). A Swainson's Hawk at Alachua, Alachua 2 Dec (BW) was rare, with other singles in w. Palm Beach 10 & 16 Feb (John

Thomton, MBe) and Stormwater Treatment Area 5 on 16 Feb (ME et al.) somewhat n. of their usual winter range. A Golden Eagle, rare in the Region, was at De Funiak Springs, Walton 6 Jan (DR). A Crested Caracara photographed in heavily urbanized Pinellas was the first one verified there in 99 years (*fide* RoS)!

RAILS TROUGH ALCIDS

Yellow Rails were flushed at Long Pine Key, Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade 2 Jan (C.B.C.) and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., Osceola 12 Jan (PMi) and 21 Feb (MK et al.). Black Rails were heard

calling at Merritt I. 16 Dec and 25 Feb (DF et al.) and Werner-Boyce Salt Springs S.P., Pasco 29 Dec (BAh, C.B.C.). Escapees from a private collection, Purple Swampheens were breeding in s. Florida by 1998 and have invaded much

of the n. Everglades, despite a state-sponsored eradication campaign; one ad. reached Viera Wetlands 26 Jan, where it remained until reportedly "dispatched" 19 Feb (DF et al.). Greater Sandhill Cranes began their northward migration at Gainesville 2 Feb, "about two weeks ahead of schedule" (Helen Warren et al.). A pair of Florida Sandhill Cranes fledged a colt in Hernando 24 Feb (B&AH). Two other Sandhills in Walton 6-8 Dec (Heidi Moore) were rare in the w. Panhandle, whereas 10 near Frog Pond W.M.A., Miami-Dade 13 Jan (BRo) were far south. The 16 juv. Whooping Cranes that followed ultralight aircraft from Wisconsin to Chassahowitzka N.W.R., Citrus were part of ongoing efforts to establish a second migratory population, which now stands at 78 cranes (<<http://operationmigration.org/index.html>>). The most interesting report of resident Whooping Cranes involved 3 birds at Carlton Reserve, Sarasota 4 Jan (Rhett Oren).



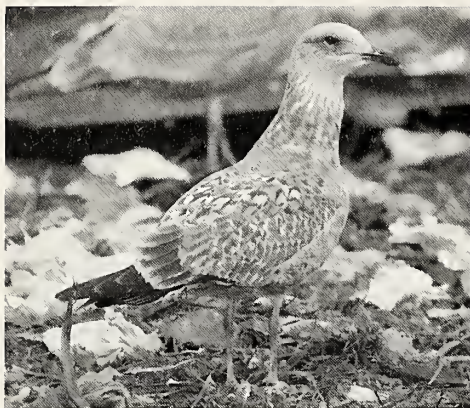
This first-cycle California Gull frequented several locations in Volusia County, Florida, where it remained from 27 January through 6 March 2008 (here 20 February). Photograph by Michael Brothers.

An American Golden-Plover at Merritt I. 25 Feb (DF) furnished a very rare winter report. Snowy Plovers were casual along the n. Atlantic coast until recently, so 2 at Talbot Island S.P., Duval 29 Dec (PL) were almost expected. A very rare inland occurrence involved 7 Wilson's Plovers and a lone Red Knot in a plowed field in Ruskin, Hillsborough 16 Dec (EH, BAh, BP). The maximum of 28 Piping Plovers at Crandon Beach, Miami-Dade was the lowest there in four years (RD) and yet furnished the Region's high count. Black-necked Stilts, very local during winter, were found at six locations this season n. to L. Apopka, Orange (HR), where now annual. Three American Avocets at Indian Point Pen., Gulf 9 Jan (AKn) and 8 at Jacksonville 13 Jan (Roger Clark) represented rare n. Florida winter reports. A lone Solitary Sandpiper was in Hendry (C.B.C.), whereas duos were in Brevard (DS, DF), Polk (TP), Martin (C.B.C.), and Palm Beach (C.B.C.). Ten Long-billed Curlews were widely distributed along



For the third consecutive winter, Semipalmated Sandpipers were verified in Florida; this bird was one of ten identified on the Key Largo—Plantation Key Christmas Bird Count, Monroe County 14 December 2008. Photograph by Brennan Mulrooney.

and Orlando Wetlands Park 1 Feb (BHA et al.). Since the early 1970s, black-hawks of unknown provenance and unproven identity have been reported occasionally in coastal Miami-Dade and Monroe; this season a Great



This possible first-cycle Yellow-legged Gull was at the Volusia County, Florida landfill 27 January 2008. Photographs by Bob Wallace.

the Gulf coast, with a high count of 3 in Hillsborough 29 Dec (C.B.C.); lone birds wintered in Lee (CE) and Collier (TB), while the status of singles in Gulf (AKn), Franklin (JM), Levy (MG), Pinellas (RoS) and Monroe (C.B.C.) was uncertain. For the 3rd consecutive winter, Semipalmated Sandpipers were verified in Florida; 10 were identified on the Key Largo-Plantation Key C.B.C., Monroe 14 Dec (†BM). Purple Sandpipers were scarce; the only reports were of one at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 2 Dec (AB) and up to 2 at Ponce de Leon Inlet 5 Dec and 1 Jan+ (MBr, m.ob.). An American Woodcock with 5 chicks was discovered at Kanapaha Prairie, Alachua 22 Feb (Marilyn Spalding). The 650 Red Phalaropes about 50 km off Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 Jan (PLh et al.) established a new record count for Florida.

Also present off Ponce de Leon Inlet 28 Jan were 200 Bonaparte's Gulls, a juv. Sabine's Gull (for the state's 6th winter report), 3 Sooty/Bridled Terns, and 13 Forster's Terns (PLh et al.). Single Franklin's Gulls lingered in Okaloosa through 4 Dec (DWa, RAD) and Volusia through 10 Dec (Chris Newton, MBr). Birders spent many hours at area landfills searching through thousands of gull for rarities. Awaiting review by the F.O.S.R.C. as a result of these efforts were California Gulls (two previous Florida records) at Tomoka Landfill, Daytona Beach, Volusia and nearby locations 27 Jan–6 Mar (AJ, MBr et al.) and the Central Disposal Facility Landfill, Cocoa, Brevard 12 Feb (LA); 2 first-cycle European Herring Gulls (potential Florida first) at Volusia landfill 27 Jan and 3 Feb (AV, MBr et al.) and another at Brevard landfill 1 Feb (AV); an apparent first-cycle Yellow-legged Gull (potential Florida first) at Volusia landfill 27–29 Jan (†BW, JoH, Cameron Cox, LA et al.); and 2 first-cycle Thayer's Gulls at Volusia landfill 13 Feb (LA, MBr, BHA et al.), plus another at Brevard landfill 29 Jan+ (DF et al.). Also awaiting review are 5 first-cycle Iceland Gulls: sin-

gles at Perdido Landfill, Escambia 18 Feb (Laura Catterton), Bird I., Duval 29 Dec–9 Feb (PL), and Brevard landfill 29 Jan (DF), and up to 2 at Volusia landfill and nearby coastal locations 23 Jan–15 Feb (†MBr, AJ et al.). Another Iceland Gull 8 km off Alligator Pt., Franklin 2 Dec (JM) was accepted by F.O.S.R.C. (9th accepted report). A count of 64 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Boca Chica Key, Monroe 2 Feb (CG) was unexpected. Lone Glaucous Gulls were reported at Destin, Okaloosa 10 Feb (Kelly & Sarah Jones et al.), in se. Baker 12 Jan (BR), at St. Augustine 15 Dec (C.B.C.), at Port Canaveral, Brevard 15 Dec (MG), at Brevard landfill 29 Jan+ (DF at al.), and at Volusia landfill 15 Jan+ (up to 2; MBr, m.ob.). Up to 3 apparent Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrids were identified at Volusia landfill and Daytona Beach Shores 13 Jan+ (MBr, m.ob.), with 2 others at Brevard landfill (B&LA, BHA). Rare and local along the Gulf coast, Great Black-backed Gulls were noteworthy in Okaloosa (L&RAD), Sarasota (C.B.C.) and Lee (CE, Walt Winton), with 6 in Pinellas (RoS, EK). A lone Gull-billed Tern was far n. and inland at Orlando Wetlands 1 Feb (BHA et al.). A Common Tern photographed at Key Largo 14 Dec (BM) may have been late migrant, while one at Bunch Beach, Lee 18 Jan (CE) furnished a rare mid-winter report. Ponce de Leon Inlet was the site of the only alcid reports: a Dovekie 27 Jan (MBr, BW et al.) and a Razorbill 25 Jan (MBr).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

With White-winged Doves now breeding in Escambia as a result of w. range expansion, one in Franklin 7 Dec (JM) was more likely from that population rather than from the peninsula. Several Fish Crows in w. Pasco were seen reaching with their heads into the chamber of a Monk Parakeet nest in an apparent attempt to depredate the eggs or young (KT), a behavior also noted in Miami-Dade during spring 2007 (BHA). The only Smooth-

billed Anis reported were of the well-watched group of 6 at Fort Lauderdale (m.ob.). Lone Groove-billed Anis were in Santa Rosa 1–17 Dec (Nathan Dixon) and at Myakka S.P., Sarasota 8 Jan (†Jerry Ulrikson). A Long-eared Owl found emaciated at Garcon Pt., Santa Rosa 30 Nov, rehabilitated and released in Santa Rosa 1 Jan (†LD), became the 6th accepted Florida report. Short-eared Owls were fairly widespread, with singles in Wakulla (MBe), Volusia (MBr), Brevard (fide AB), Highlands

(C.B.C.) and Miami-Dade (Trey Mitchell, RT, RD, BBo), 2 in Monroe (RT, LM), and 6 at L. Apopka (C.B.C.).

Lesser Nighthawks were reported at Frog Pond (11; BBo) and in Everglades N.P. along Research Road, Miami-Dade (3, RD et al.) and at Flamingo, Monroe (up to 6; BBo). A silent nighthawk low over the Tomoka R., Volusia 21 Dec was likely a Lesser (MBr). Two Common Nighthawks, casual during winter, were at L. Apopka 4 Jan (AB, BHA, PCh). A Chuck-will's-widow returned to Merritt I. 22 Feb (DF). Fred Bassett banded 64 hummingbirds of seven species and recaptured 15 individuals of four species across n. Florida this season. Among these were Florida's 2nd and 3rd Broad-billed Hummingbirds at Blountstown,



Up to six Horned Larks were in Jackson County, Florida's agricultural fields for a second season 23 December 2007 (here) through 29 January 2008. Photograph by Andy Bankert.

Calhoun mid-Dec+ (Ray Dennis, m.ob.) and Jacksonville 1 Jan–23 Feb (Sandy Dixon, m.ob.), the state's 2nd Anna's Hummingbird at De Funiak Springs, Walton early Nov–31 Jan (Dara & Lloyd Dobson, m.ob.), its 4th Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Baker, Okaloosa ca. 22 Nov–29 Mar (Maryann Friedman), a Calliope in Escambia, 30 Ruby-throateds, and 26 Rufous. One Rufous in Escambia had been banded seven years earlier. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was s. to Brevard 12 Dec+ (Doug Stuckey, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Least Flycatchers were unusually scarce this season, although 26 were counted at L. Apopka 21 Dec (C.B.C.). A Say's Phoebe near Astatula, Lake 21 Dec+ (†Gian Basili et al.) furnished the 4th accepted report for Florida. Lone Vermilion Flycatchers in *Alachua* (JW, Travis Blunden), *Columbia* (C.B.C.), *Seminole* (Ken Schmidt, m.ob.), and *Wakulla* (AW, Michael Hartley) were at locations from prior years. Up to 16 Ash-throated Flycatchers wintered at L. Apopka 5 Dec+ (HR). Three others were at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., *Alachua* 16 Dec (Steve Collins, ES et al.), and singles were surprises at Tallahassee 5 Dec (GM) and Osteen, *Volusia* 8 Dec (†DBA). Up to 2 Brown-crested Flycatchers wintered at Hidden L., Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade* (RD, BBo), where probably regular during winter, but the Brown-crested at L. Apopka 14 Dec+ (HR) was extralimital. A silent Tropical-type Kingbird discovered at Kissimmee, *Osceola* 30 Dec (†Larry Rosen, C.B.C.) was not reported afterward. The only Cassin's Kingbird was in *Hendry* 15 Dec+ (†Gary Legates et al.), where one wintered this past year. Winter roosts of Western Kingbirds contained 69 birds at The Villages, *Marion* (JD) and 50 at L. Apopka (BHA et al.). Lone West-erns in *Franklin* 25 Dec (AB, PCh) and at two *Duval* locations 29 Dec (Joe Burgess; AT) were late, while one in *Escambia* 4-6 Feb (Powers McLeod) and 2 in *Jackson* 18 Feb (AW) may have wintered locally. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widely scattered throughout the cen. and s. peninsula, but numbers were down at the two northernmost roosts, with 2 at The Villages (JD) and 4 at L. Apopka (BHA). In the w. Panhandle, single Scissor-tailed brightened *Escambia* 10 Dec and *Okaloosa* 17 Dec (both LD).

A lingering Bell's Vireo was at Valparaiso, *Okaloosa* 17 Dec (MC), while another wintered in *Sarasota* 26 Dec-3 Feb (Rick Greenspun, m.ob.). Seven Yellow-throated Vireos were found in Dec, with the latest in *Miami-Dade* 22 Dec (C.B.C.). Up to 6 Horned Larks were in *Jackson* agricultural fields 23 Dec-29 Jan for a 2nd year (AW, m.ob.). The earliest Purple Martins were 2 at *Sarasota* 5 Jan (C.B.C.). Far northerly were 12 Northern Rough-winged Swallows in w. *Pasco* 29 Dec (C.B.C.) and 2 in *Alachua* 21 Feb (JW). Single Bank Swallows, unverified during winter, were at Flamingo 6 Jan (LM) and Viera Wetlands 25 Jan-19 Feb (DF, Michael O'Brien et al.). Equally rare, and with just one winter record, 3 Cliff Swallows at L. Harney, *Seminole/Volusia* 22 Dec were accompanied by good details (C.B.C.). Duos of Cave Swallows at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 23 Dec (RAD, William Duncan) and Bald Pt., *Franklin* 24 Dec (JM) were late. Barn Swallows in *Okaloosa* 3 Dec (DWa) and *Brevard* 17 Dec

(C.B.C.) were also late south-bound, while one in *Brevard* 28 Feb (DF) was early north-bound. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was far s. to Weeki-wachee Preserve, *Hernando* 26 Dec (Dave Goodwin), as was a Brown Creeper at Kanapaha Prairie, *Alachua* 30 Dec-12 Jan (Jim Baker). Golden-crowned Kinglets strayed southward to *Alachua* 16 Dec (1, C.B.C.) and *Pinellas* (2, Joe Zarolinski). The F.O.S.R.C. voted unanimously in Jan to add Common Myna to Florida's list of established exotics; it is locally common primarily along the se. coast and in the Keys. Two Sprague's Pipits were found at their usual location in Apalachicola, *Franklin* (C.B.C.), while one at L. Iamonia, *Leon* 6 Jan (Todd Engstrom) was surprising.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Twenty-five species of warblers were reported. A Blue-winged Warbler at L. Apopka, Lake 25 Dec (AV) was late. Formerly of casual occurrence, Nashville Warblers have been increasing during winter; this season, Nashvilles were in *Alachua* (Gina Zimmerman, Adam Kent); *Seminole* (2; Greg Bretz, PH); *Orange* (4; C.B.C., DR et al.); *Hernando* (Clay Black, Gail Parsons et al.); *Hillsborough* (Steve Backes); and *Miami-Dade* (2; BBo, RD). The earliest Northern Parula returned to *Alachua* 11 Feb (Martha King). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Alachua* 12 Feb (JoH) may have been wintering, but the Cape May Warbler at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 7 Feb (RD) was thought to be a very early migrant. Magnolia Warblers were n. to *Martin* (2; C.B.C.), and *Hardee* (one; Jackie Kern), while one in *Seminole* 14 Dec (LoM) may have been lingering. Also presumably lingering were Black-throated Blue Warblers in *Seminole* 1 Dec (PH) and Lake 8 Dec (DF et al.) and a Blackburnian Warbler in *Brevard* 15 Dec (C.B.C.). Black-throated Green Warblers wintered n. to *Brevard*, *Orange*, and *Seminole* (C.B.C.). A Prairie Warbler in *Santa Rosa* 17 Dec (JPF) was late, while one in *Escambia* 12 Feb (A&DF) was early. Fifty-three Palm Warblers moving through Green Key, *Pasco* 22 Jan (KT) were likely migrants. American Redstarts were n. to *Alachua* (MM) and *Duval* (AT). Casual during winter, a Prothonotary Warbler was at Flamingo 29 Dec (C.B.C.), where it probably wintered. Casual so far n., the Worm-eating Warbler at L. Apopka 21 Dec (C.B.C.) provid-



This Say's Phoebe near Astatula, Lake County, Florida 21 (here 22) December 2007 was Florida's fourteenth. Photograph by Ken Schmidt.

ed the Region's sole report.

A Northern Waterthrush tarried in *Hamilton* 15 Dec (C.B.C.), while singles in *Putnam* 9 Feb (BAh) and *Alachua* 10 Feb (MM) likely represented early migrants. L. Apopka supported 23 Northernns 21 Dec (C.B.C.) and the earliest Louisiana Waterthrush 20 Feb (HR). Hooded Warblers, casual during winter, spiced up two sites at Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade* (RD, Brian Rapoza, JHB). Lone Wilson's Warblers were in *Leon* (GM), *Orange* (C.B.C.), *Pinellas* (RoS et al.), *Broward* (C.B.C.), and *Miami-Dade* (MBe), with 3 others in *Alachua* (Scott Robinson, MM et al.). There were single Yellow-breasted Chats in *Escambia* (Alex Harper), *Leon* (John Armstrong), *Putnam* (C.B.C.), *Orange* (C.B.C.), Lake (AV), and *Monroe* (C.B.C.), and 5 in *Miami-Dade* (RD, MBe).

A Bananaquit wintered at Hollywood, *Broward* (Joe Kaplan, JHB et al.). Summer Tanagers were reported on eight Christmas counts from the Panhandle to the s. peninsula. Five in *Alachua* (ES et al.) and one in *Escambia* (MC) wintered; singles in *Orange* 19 Jan (DR et al.) and *Escambia* 22 Feb (MC) may have been early migrants. Western Tanagers are always a treat; there were 5 this season: singles at *Pensacola* 7 Dec (Betsy Tetlow), *Niceville*, *Okaloosa* 6 Jan-13 Feb (Carol Goodyear, Robin Stiles et al.), and Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 12-31 Jan (RD), and 2 at Tallahassee 6 Dec+ (FR). The Regional total of 14 Clay-colored Sparrows seems high, but 9 of these were in *Polk* (Pete Timmer, Alan Delorey

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et al.). At least 2 Lark Sparrows were in *Sarasota* 14 Dec–12 Jan (JD). Two Florida Grasshopper Sparrows initiated singing at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 16 Feb (Erica Hernandez et al.). Henslow's Sparrows were reported in small numbers in *Jackson*, *St. Johns*, *Seminole*, and *Orange* (C.B.C.), while the 21 at Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., *Alachua* (ES et al.) must have been a challenge to count. A banding effort at Weekiwachee Preserve, *Hernando* 26 Jan captured 20 birds, most notably 2 Henslow's Sparrows and 2 Le Conte's Sparrows (MK et al., †BP). Other Le Conte's enlivened Christmas counts in *Wakulla* (one) and *Seminole* (3). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Everglades N.P. restoration area 2 Jan (RD) was unexpected inland. Fox Sparrows were absent in the peninsula except for one banded at Wekiwa Springs S.P., *Orange* 2 Dec (ABO et al.). Reports of multiple Fox Sparrows in the Panhandle came from *Washington* (4; RoS) and *Gadsden* (3; AW et al.). Lincoln's Sparrows are always noteworthy, with mostly singles in *Franklin* (C.B.C.), *Jefferson* (BAh), *Levy* (C.B.C.), *Pasco* (Dave Bowman), *Orange* (C.B.C.), and *Okeechobee* (PMi). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in only seven counties, with C.B.C. high counts of 16 in *Alachua* and 20 in *Orange*. A White-crowned at Frog Pond (MBe) was notably far south. A Lapland Longspur, very rare in the Region, was a one-day wonder at Huguenot Park 1 Dec (BR).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at L. Apopka 1 Feb (HR) and at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area, *Miami-Dade* 26 Jan (RD). The only Blue Grosbeaks reported were 7 that wintered at L. Apopka (HR, C.B.C.). Male Lazuli Buntings were photographed at Emerald Marsh 28 Jan–4 Feb (Barbara Gay et al.) and at Alva, *Lee* 5 Feb+ (Leon & Lois White et al.). An Indigo Bunting at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* through 20 Dec (RAD) was late. A Painted Bunting at Apalachicola 27–28 Dec (AB, JM) was extralimital, while 11 were counted in coastal counties from *Levy* (3; Dale Henderson) to *Sarasota* (JD). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds brightened *Orange* (HR, BS et al.), *Manatee* (Dave Williamson), *Polk* (C.B.C.), and *Miami-Dade* (RT, MBe). Rusty Blackbirds were numerous, with a surprising 650 reported in nine counties s. to *Hernando* (6; EH), with high numbers in *Jackson* (225; C.B.C.) and *Okaloosa* (250; BAh). Brewer's Blackbirds were at three locations including 20 in *Baker* (BR), 2 in *Jackson* (C.B.C.), and 200 in *Bay* (C.B.C.). Two Shiny Cowbirds were in *Miami-Dade* 22 Dec (C.B.C.), where regular, and at St. Marks 18 Jan, where casual (DeeAnne Meliopoulos et al.). Bronzed Cowbirds are increasing rapidly and reportedly now breeding

in the Region. This season, there were 41 in *Miami-Dade* (C.B.C.), 39 in *Collier* (Hugh McGuinness), and 5 in *Sarasota* (JD et al.). A Bronzed in *Escambia* 8 Feb (A&DF) was likely an early migrant. Casual during winter, lone Orchard Orioles surprised observers in *Alachua* (JoH et al.), *Orange* (BHA et al.), and *Sarasota* (†Kevin Edwards). Female Bullock's Orioles graced *Pensacola* 15 Dec (JPf) and *Tallahassee* 26 Dec+ (PCh, FR, m.ob.). As usual, Purple Finches were rare, reported this season only in *Liberty* (2; B&LA), *Gadsden* (BAh), and *Columbia* (Jerry Krummrich). The only Pine Siskins were in *Alachua* (Robert Norton et al.) and *Hernando* (Kristin Wood).

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

A Black-throated Magpie-Jay at Dade City, *Pasco* Dec–15 Feb (Rhonda Geiger, †BP) and an ad. Red-capped Cardinal at Plantation, *Broward* 23 Feb+ (†Barbara Dewitt, A. J. Hartman) furnished verifiable records of these two new exotics.

Addenda and corrigendum to Winter 2006–2007 report: The Red-necked Grebe reported in *Okaloosa* this past winter was not accepted by the F.O.S.R.C., nor was the Iceland Gull in *Volusia*, which was more likely a Thayer's Gull × Iceland Gull hybrid. The earliest Swallow-tailed Kites were in *Clay*, not *Flagler* (see *North American Birds* 61: 249–250).

Contributors cited (and members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee in boldface): Brian Ahern (BAh), Bruce H. Anderson (BHA), Brooks & Lyn Atherton, Danny Bales (DBa), Andy Bankert, Ted Below, Mark Berny (MBe), Bill Boeringer (BBo), John H. Boyd (JHB), Andrew Boyle (ABO), Michael Brothers (MBr), Phil Chaon (PCh), Morris Clark, Robin Diaz, Jim Dinsmore, Jeanne Dubi, Lucy & Robert A. Duncan, Margaret England, Charlie Ewell, Ann & Dan Forster, David Freeland, Dot Freeman, Murray Gardler, Carl Goodrich, Erik Haney, Al & Bev Hansen, John Hintermister (JoH), Paul Hueber, Alvaro Jaramillo, Marianne Korosy, Ed Kwater, Patrick Leary, Paul Lehman (PLh), Lorne Malo (LoM), Gail Menk, Paul Miller (PMi), Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy, Tom Palmer, James Pfeiffer (JPf), Peggy Powell, Bill Pranty, Dexter Richardson, Bob Richter, Harry Robinson, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Earl Scales, David Simpson, Ron Smith (RoS), Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, Anne Turner, Alex Vinokur, Bob Wallace, Don Ware (DWa), Joshua Watson, Andy Wraithmell. ☉

Bruce H. Anderson, 2917 Scarlet Road
Winter Park, Florida 32792, (scizortail@aol.com)



Blake A. Mann

The province experienced very cold and snowy conditions for most of the season; above-average temperatures in mid-January were short-lived. The "super-flight" of northern finches continued into December, with large numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and both redpolls reported widely in the south. As a result, winter finches were very scarce or absent in the north. Outstanding rarities in the south included a Ross's Gull and a Black-throated Gray Warbler.

WATERFOWL

Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese included 4 n. of Wiarton, *Bruce* 5 Jan (KT), singles at Newcastle, *Durham* 10 Jan (RWL) and Erie Beach, *Chatham-Kent* 9 Feb (SRC), up to 6 *frontalis* at Cobourg and Point Hope, *Northumberland* 20 Jan+ (AMcL), and 4 at Newcastle 16 Feb (m.ob.)—the latter three reports represent early migrants. Ross's Goose reports were of one at Chippawa, *Niagara* 8-15 Dec (AW et al.), 3 at Ridgetown, *Chatham-Kent* 9 Dec (ph. JTB), 2 at Kingsville, *Essex* 13-15 Dec (DJW et al.) that were n. of Point Pelee N.P. 14 Dec, and another at Kingsville 13 Dec-6 Jan (DJW et al.). A Brant at Point Pelee N.P. 17 Dec was locally late (TGB, HHB), while another at Hamilton 6-24 Jan (RLW et al.) was locally rare. Twelve Cackling Geese at Rondeau P.P. 1 Dec (JTB) furnished the high count for that area. Notable waterfowl included 2 female Wood Ducks at Stratford, *Perth* 11 Jan+ (ST) and a Northern Pintail at Hayden, *Algoma* 12 Jan (KZ). A male Ring-necked Duck × Greater Scaup hybrid at Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* 23 Dec (AW, MWJ) was an interesting find. Lesser Scaup numbered about 14,000 from Hillman Marsh to Point Pelee N.P. 6 Jan (DJW, ACP). Up to 5 King Eiders wintered near Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* (RZD et al.), while singles graced Point Pelee

N.P. (DJW, ACP) and Bronte, *Halton* (MJW), both 6 Jan. Most of the 11 Harlequin Ducks reported were females, but at least one male was among those along the Greater Toronto waterfront (m.ob.). A female Harlequin braved icy conditions at Erieau 25 Jan+ (JTB). A female Black Scoter near Hillman Marsh 6 Jan was record-late for the Point Pelee area (DJW, ACP). A male Bufflehead × Hooded Merganser hybrid visited Bronte 6 Jan (MDB), and the male Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid near the Deschênes Rapids, *Ottawa* to 6 Jan (BMD) likely was the same bird from the past three winters. Seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported during the season at various locations (m.ob.).

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An ad. Pacific Loon flying past Point Pelee N.P. 2 Dec (AW) constituted the 6th fall report for the area. A very hardy Pied-billed Grebe that wintered at Eagle River, *Kenora* (CE) provided an exceptional report for the north. A Horned Grebe wintered on the St. Clair River near Port Lambton, *Lambton* 27 Dec-12 Feb (PAW, BAM), while late fall migrants included duos at Point Pelee N.P. 29 Dec (AW) and Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward* 6 Jan (Kingston Field Naturalists). A Red-necked Grebe was unusual inland at Cambridge, *Waterloo* 27 Dec (KWD et al.). An Eared Grebe at Erieau 23 Dec (AW, MWJ) was another interesting find. Lingering juv. Northern Gannets included singles at Point Pelee N.P. 2 Dec (AW), Stoney Creek 2 Dec (MJCB), Fifty Point C.A., *Niagara* 6 Dec (DM), and Port Credit, *Peel* 15 Dec (JL, DEP). The Great Egret at Wheatley was last seen at Hillman Marsh 1 Dec. A juv. Black-crowned Night-Heron at Chatham, *Chatham-Kent* 3 Feb (PAW) furnished a surprising report for the Thames River.

Up to 6 Turkey Vultures wintered at Brantford (DRD et al.). An Osprey lingered near Adolphus Reach, *Prince Edward* 3-17 Dec (Jenny Goodall). A rufous-morph *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk was near Westover, *Hamilton* 11 Jan+ (CEE). Gyrfalcons reported this season were a gray morph at Peterborough 8 Dec (MBI) and dark morphs at Fort Erie, *Niagara* 23-28 Feb (MJ, RE, TS, RS) and *Ottawa* 25 Feb+ (ph. RW, TAH). Several Golden Eagles were reported, with one at the w. gate of Algo-

nquin P.P. 23 Jan (LAP) being most noteworthy. A Sora at the Canard R. mouth, *Essex* 28 Dec (PRD) was attempting to winter. At least 160 Sandhill Cranes near Port Royal, *Norfolk* 5 Jan represented a good count for such a late date (JRA). A juv. Semipalmated Plover at Hillman Marsh 8-14 Dec (DJW et al.) was record late for the Point Pelee area. Purple Sandpipers included singles at Point Pelee N.P. 2 Dec (AW) and Erieau 7 Dec (JTB). A Wilson's Snipe near Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* 26 Jan-16 Feb (JTB) likely wintered in an unfrozen creek. Tardy American Woodcocks included singles at Rondeau P.P. 8 Dec (BAM) and Sparrow Field, Point Pelee N.P. 17 Dec (PDP).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An unidentified jaeger at Cedarhurst Park, *Essex* 15 Dec (AW) was the only one reported. The ad. Black-headed Gull at the Niagara R. was last seen at Queenston, *Niagara* 3 Feb (SJ et al.). An assembly of about 10,000 Bona-



A Northern Hawk Owl at Vinemount, Hamilton County, Ontario 8 (here 12) December 2007 through the end of February 2008 delighted many photographers. Photograph by Sandra and Frank Horvath.

parte's Gulls at Erieau 23 Dec (AW, BAM) was significant for that late date. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was found at Hamilton 4 Jan (BRH). The juv. Black-legged Kittiwake on the Niagara R. was last reported 16 Feb (m.ob.). An ad. Ross's Gull enlivened Niagara Falls 27-31 Jan (WCD, BP, JI, KAM et al.). A Barn Owl was reported near St. Clair National Wildlife Area, *Chatham-Kent* 1 Jan (PAW). A Northern Hawk Owl at Vinemount, *Halton* 8 Dec+ (KAM) was enjoyed by many. Reports of Barred Owl indicated a light incursion into the s. Region, with 10 reports each near Kingston, *Frontenac* in Dec and Jan (Kingston Field Naturalists) and 7 in the Greater Toronto area (m.ob.). Single Barreds were at two sites at London, *Middlesex* 8-9 (ph. DMc, JM)



A very cooperative Townsend's Solitaire spent the better part of the winter at Ottawa, Ontario 21 December 2007 through the end of February 2008 (here 1 January). Photograph by Tony F. M. Beck.

& 18 Dec (SB), with one bird lingering until 26-27 Jan (ph. B&LD). Several Great Gray Owls came to s. Ontario, all singles: Wye Marsh, *Simcoe* 8 Dec (AZ); Barrie, *Simcoe* 12 Dec (LC), near Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* 4 Jan then to Ajax, *Durham* 13 & 20 Jan (GS, AGC); near Brighton, *Northumberland* 27 Jan (RDM); at Grafton, *Northumberland* 3 Feb (MR), and near Brentwood, *Simcoe* 9 Feb (LD). Another Great Gray at Algonquin P.P. 3 Dec (KPC, LAP) was likely a member of the small resident population there. The ad. female Rufous Hummingbird continued at Kingsville through 1 Dec (C&PH, m.ob.). Numerous reports of Belted Kingfishers were received, but one that wintered at Port Sydney, *Muskoka* 10 Jan-7 Feb (*fide* BT) was notable. Single American Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported from four sites: Spruce Bog Boardwalk Trail, Algonquin P.P. 30 Dec-25 Feb (RGP, DCT, MWPR), Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* 12 Jan (KZ); Mew Lake Campground, Algonquin P.P. 2 Feb (MBe); and Field, *Nipissing* 16 Feb (FP, CS, RDT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

An Eastern Phoebe at Point Pelee N.P. 12 Jan (ACP) provided an interesting mid-winter find. A number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets attempted to winter in the province, including one at Aldershot, *Halton* 26 Dec+ (CEE, RZD) and several at Point Pelee N.P., where they outnumbered Golden-crowned Kinglets (m.ob.). Several Townsend's Solitaires were reported: 2

at Thunder Bay 9 Dec (BJM) and singles at Point Pelee N.P. 17 Dec (PJB, HHB, TGB, HL), Nepean, *Ottawa* 21 Dec+ (FS, m.ob.), along the *Chatham-Kent/Elgin* border 10 Jan (RCS, JMH), and at Picton, *Prince Edward* 16-23 Feb (*fide* RTS). Notable Gray Catbird reports included singles at Constance Bay, *Ottawa* through 2 Jan (BD, m.ob.), Britannia C.A., *Ottawa* 16 Dec-27 Jan (m.ob.), and Point Pelee N.P. 7 Jan+ (MBR et al.). Bohemian Waxwings were widely reported, with some flocks containing several hundred birds (m.ob.). A male Cape May Warbler tarried at Port

Rowan, *Norfolk* 10 Dec (JRA). A female Black-throated Gray Warbler at Port Burwell, *Elgin* 10-16 Dec (RA) delighted many observers, as did a male *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler at the same locale 9 Dec-14 Jan (JS). A Northern Waterthrush at Aldershot, *Halton* 10 Dec (IS) provided a record-late date for the Hamilton area. The only Common Yellowthroat reported was at Wheatley P.P. 17 Dec (PAR, ICP, AWh).

SPARROWS THROUGH SISKINS

A first-year Harris's Sparrow near Erie Beach 3 Jan-16 Feb (IW) was quite elusive. A male

that area. An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Long Point, *Norfolk* 21 Jan (MVB, KGB), while an ad. male was w. of Williamstown, *Stormont-Glenarry* 29 Feb (JMB, CT). The only Baltimore Oriole reported was an imm. male at McGregor, *Essex* through 15 Dec (*fide* PDP).

Pine Grosbeaks were widely reported in the south; notable reports included one at Point Pelee N.P. 17 Dec (PDP et al.) that furnished the first report there in seven years, and a female at Sleepy Hollow, *Chatham-Kent* 27 Jan (JTB, KJB) that provided the first report in the Rondeau area in 27 years. Few crossbills were reported, but redpolls were numerous. All four North American redpoll subspecies—two each for Common and Hoary Redpolls—were reported at a feeding station at Sault Ste. Marie 19 Jan (KZ). Pine Siskins were very scarce, especially later in the season, up to 10 that wintered at Wallaceburg, *Chatham-Kent* (BAM) were noteworthy

Contributors and cited Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Jody R. Allair, Ronald Allensen, Margaret J.C. Bain, Mary Beylea, Helmut H. Birkner, Peter J. Birkner, Tom G. Birkner, Mike Blom (MBL), C. Fred Bodsworth, Jacques M. Bouvier, Michael D. Boyd, Steven Buccerelli, Keith J. Burk, Jim T. Burk, Bob & Sally Burns, Ken G. Burrell, Mike V. Burrell, Lorena Campbell, A. Geoff Carpentier, Robert J. Cermak, Steve R. Charbonneau, Kevin P. Clute, Joyce Collier-Brown, Kenneth W. Dance, Willie C. D'Anna, Paul R.

Desjardins, Ben Di Labio, Bruce M. Di Labio, Rob Z. Dobos, David R. Don, Brad & Leslie Duncan, Larry Durkee, Carole Eady, Robert Eberly, Cheryl E. Edgecombe, David H. Elder, Nick G. Escott, Marie-Helen Giguere, Jacques Giraud, Clive E. Goodwin, Tom A. Hanrahan, Chris & Pam Heil, Brandon R. Holden, James M. Holdsworth, Jean Iron, Marcia Jacklin, Anita Jacobsen, Scott Jennex, Mark W. Jennings, M. Johnston, Ross W. Lamb, Herbert Lambart, John Lamey, Christina Lewis, Blake A. Mann, Daryl MacDonald, Stuart A. Mackenzie, John Makaran, David McAdamson (DMc), R. Doug McRae, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Art McLeod, Brian J. Moore, Lee A. Pauze, Jim Pawlicki, R. Gord Payne, Donald E. Perks, Adam C. Pinch, Fred Pinto, Ian C. Platt, Betsy Potter, Paul D. Pratt, Peter A. Read, Marianne B. Reid, Alfred H. Rider, Maureen Riggs, Michael W. P. Runtz, Roy B.



An outstanding rarity of the winter 2007-2008 period in Ontario was this female Black-throated Gray Warbler at Port Burwell, *Elgin County* 10-16 (here 12) December. Photograph by Ron Ridout.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Cobourg 23 Dec (MJ) provided the 3rd area winter report, while another male was found at Scarborough, *Toronto* 21 Dec (CFB). A Rusty Blackbird e. of Atikoken, *Rainy River* 1-16 Dec (B&SB) furnished the 2nd winter report for



This Harris's Sparrow near Blenheim, Chatham-Kent County, Ontario 3 (here 28) January through 16 February 2008 remained quite elusive. Photograph by Sandra and Frank Horvath.

H. Smith, Tim Seburn, Gerry Shemilt, Ross C. Snider, R. Terry Sprague, Ian Stanley, Joe

Stephenson, Rick Stockton, Francine Streeting, Chris Suhka, Richard D. Tafel, Barbara Taylor, Ken Teasdale, Steve Thorpe, Douglas C. Tozer, Ronald G. Tozer, Christine Trudeau, Robert L. Waldhuber, Dean J. Ware, Richard Waters, Ronald D. Weir, Ann White (AWH), P. Allen Woodliffe, Irene Woods, Alan Wormington, Adam Zita, Kirk Zufelt.

Corrigenda: The following are corrections for the Winter 2006-

2007 report: a Ross's Goose was at Blenheim and Ridgelytown, Chatham-Kent 17-21 Dec

(JTB et al.); the 2600 Canada Geese in the Point Pelee area established a high count for winter; the California Gull was at Hamilton 7-8 Jan; the Yellow-throated Warbler near Brighton continued from the previous season until it flew into a window 7 Dec; a Northern Waterthrush at Old Mill, Toronto 10 Dec was significantly late for Greater Toronto (AA); the male Spotted Towhee at Kenora was found by Cindy Gilbertson and remained all season; the Baltimore Oriole at Yarmouth Centre, Elgin was found by Al Hurst; under Contributors, the correct spellings should be: Robert Curry, Karl Overman, Nick Quickert. ☺

Blake A. Mann, 171 Margaret Avenue
Wallaceburg, Ontario N8A 2A3, (boatmann@kent.net)

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio
Rick Wiltraut

Winter in the Region was delayed, allowing fall-like conditions to persist until they were abruptly replaced with bitter cold from late January into early spring. The distribution and abundance of many species, most especially waterfowl, reflected this shift. Regional winter birding now comes with an expectation of five species of geese versus two species 15 years ago. This season continued to set new records for Cackling, Greater White-fronted, and Ross's Geese. The dramatic increases in waterfowl numbers in the Region over the past 25 years have been gratifying. Sandhill Cranes, too, are an increasing presence in the Region, as southbound flocks are seen in the skies over western Ohio.

It was an outstanding season for winter finches—minus crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks—punctuated by the strongest redpoll showing since 1978-1979. Snow Buntings and Northern Shrikes also irrupted in record or near-record numbers. On the southern front, Black Vultures continue their north-

ward march, and a striking array of sparrows was found. Other highlights included two new birds for Pennsylvania: Slaty-backed Gull and Long-billed Murrelet.

Abbreviations: Caesar Creek (Caesar Creek S.P., Warren and Greene, OH); Headlands (Headlands S.P. & Headland Dunes State Nature Preserve, L., OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Franklin and Delaware, OH); L. Nockamixon (Bucks, PA); Prince Gallitzin (Prince Gallitzin S.P., Cambria, PA); Presque Isle (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); Byrd Dam (Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, WV); Tullytown (Tullytown Landfill, Bucks, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

At least 102 Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in 12 Ohio counties, and while a large flock may occasionally be part of a late fall or early spring flight, half of this season's geese were present during midwinter; the largest flocks were 15 or more at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot 18 Jan-9 Feb (RL, JkS, m.ob.) and 12 at Castalia, Erie 28 Jan (JBr). The flight spilled over into West Virginia, where wintering birds included one in Marion 25 Dec-14 Feb (T. Schnapp, MO, JBo, m.ob.), 3 on the Shenandoah R., Jefferson 18 Jan (MO), and 2 in Pleasants 26 Feb (M. Powney, B. Mankins). The 52 Greater White-fronteds that were part of the spring movement beginning in mid-Feb were led by a flock of 25 in Preble, OH 15 Feb (R. Elefonte). Elsewhere, 5 Greater White-

fronted Geese were in Bucks, PA 8 Dec-10 Feb (fide AM), and 3 were at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA 21 Jan (M. Wlasniewski). In light of these numbers, three Ohio reports of single Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose hybrids were not unexpected, from Franklin 6 Dec (S. Townsend), Darke 17 Jan (ph. VF), and Erie 9 Feb (B. Beason). While Cackling Geese are uncommon fall migrants, numbers observed during winter were never comparable—until this season, when 60 Cacklings in 15 flocks were reported across 14 counties of Ohio. Of these, 15 birds were late fall migrants, 14 were early spring migrants in late Feb, and 31 birds wintered. Another 10 were on the Central Bucks County, PA C.B.C. 30 Dec (fide AM). No less outstanding were the 14 Ross's Geese in Ohio, which doubles the previous record set two years ago. Of these, 2 Ross's may have been late fall migrants, 5 others arrived among north-



This first-year male Harlequin Duck was present on the Beaver River at New Brighton, Pennsylvania 28 (here 29) February through 4 March 2008. One of two found in Pennsylvania this season, this bird represented the just the second ever for the southwestern corner of the state. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.



These two White-winged Scoters, rare in midwinter in southwestern Pennsylvania, were part of a group of eight that put down at the mouth of the Beaver River 13 February 2008. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.



Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrids are reported annually along the southern shores of Lake Erie (here 4 January 2008, along the Cleveland, Ohio lakefront). Photograph by John Pogacnik.

bound goose flocks (RA, JP), including one at Hebron, *Licking* 10 Feb (S. Woodard), while 7 appeared during midwinter, led by a flock of 4 at L. White, Ross 2 Feb (B. Sparks). In Pennsylvania, 3 Ross's were present in *Allegheny* 9 Jan–6 Feb (D. Nugent, D. Wilton et al.), with singles in *Beaver*, *Cumberland*, *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton* (m.ob.). Lingering Snow Geese were especially widespread in West Virginia, with 2 in *Putnam* 4 Dec (C. Ellis), 3 in *Jefferson* 9 Dec (MO), and one in *Greenbrier* 13 Dec (B. Williams); 3 others in *Pendleton* 21 Feb (R. Tallman) represented spring migrants. A spring flock of 190 Snows appeared in *Clinton*, OH 16 Feb (LG). A Brant remained in *Mahoning*, OH through 15 Dec (CH, B. Lane).

A Eurasian Teal was at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 15 Dec (T. Fellenbaum). An outstanding mid-winter ground count for puddle ducks at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH 17 Jan included 6500 Mallards, 1000 American Black Ducks, and 80 Northern Pintails (JkS, SWs). Forty-seven Northern Pintails were in *Hardin*, OH 13 Jan (RC). High counts of Gadwalls included 88 in *Erie* in Jan (VF) and 82 in *Wayne* 12 Jan (SW). Lingering Blue-winged Teal included 2 in *Berks*, PA 4 Dec (RK), 2 on the Southern Lancaster County C.B.C., PA 16 Dec (*fide* BS), and one in *Allegheny*, PA 15 Dec (N. Page). A Eurasian

Wigeon enlivened *Bristol*, Bucks, PA 15–25 Dec (B. Mercer, D. Filler). Flocks of Ring-necked Ducks were tallied in record numbers in Ohio through Jan, with 144 at Columbus 12 Jan (R. Royse), 144 in *Lorain* 12 Jan (DV), 100 in *Muskingum* 26 Jan (BG), and 200 in *Hamilton* 21 Jan (RF). The 51,000 scaup (likely 98% Lessers) surveyed from the air at Maumee Bay 14 Dec (Ohio Department of Natural Resources, *fide* M. Shieldcastle) demonstrated the number of waterfowl lingering at L. Erie. A female Harlequin Duck was inland at New Richmond, *Clermont* 26 Feb (ph. DMs, m.ob.) for a rare record from sw. Ohio, while 2 others were in Pennsylvania including a first-winter male on the *Allegheny R.*, *Warren* 5 Feb (ph. J. Fedak) and possibly the same bird 28 Feb–4 Mar on the *Beaver R.*, *New Brighton*, *Beaver* (M. Vass, GM et al.).

Best count of scoters in Pennsylvania was 8 White-wingeds at *Rochester*, *Beaver*, PA 12–17 Feb (GM). A nice count of 34 Long-tailed Ducks came from *Bald Eagle S.P.*, *Centre*, PA 9 Dec (B. Snyder). Some 3200 Common Mergansers were at *Peace Valley Parks*, Bucks, PA 26 Feb (R. Fergus). The 80 Hooded Mergansers on the *Glenholden*, PA C.B.C. 15 Dec set a new high count (*fide* NP), while 131 others were at *Prince Gallitzin* 7 Dec (J. Salvetti). There were 41 Ruddy Ducks in *Lorain*, OH 12 Jan (DV) and 59 in *Monongalia*, WV 14 Jan (JBo).

Lingering Red-throated Loons were in Bucks, PA 1 Dec (AM), at Byrd Dam 3 Dec (WA), *Caesar Creek* 8–11 Dec (RA), on the Southern Lancaster County, PA C.B.C. 16 Dec (BS), and in *Clermont*, OH 22 Dec (J. Bens, K. Westendorf). A wintering Red-throated was at *Peace Valley Park*, *Prince Gallitzin* 13 Feb (JS), while one at *Caesar Creek* 9–17 Feb (RA) was northbound. An *Aechmophorus* grebe was described at *Caesar Creek* 26 Dec (D. Thomsen). Red-necked Grebes in Ohio were limited to singles at *Caesar Creek* 17 Dec (RA, JHg) and 17 Feb (B. Stanley), while Pennsylvania reports included singles at L. Nockamixon 7 Jan (BE), *Delaware R.* in Bucks 12 Jan (AM, H. Eskin), and L. *Ontelaunee*, *Berks*

27 Dec (RK), with 2 at *Presque Isle* 2 Dec and one there 17 Dec (JM) and one at *Beltzville L.*, *Carbon* 21 Feb (DW). An Eared Grebe was reported from the *Cleveland lakefront* 20 Dec (S. Wagner) and 11 Feb (P. Chaon). The 144 Horned Grebes at *East Fork L.*, *Clermont*, OH 14 Dec (RF) represented a late fall movement. A mid-winter grounding in parts of Ohio and West Virginia (Table 1) recalled a similar event in mid-Jan 1999. The 85 Pied-billed Grebes in *Highland*, OH 23 Feb (RA) furnished an extraordinary winter tally. A Northern Gannet along the *Cleveland lakefront* 23–27 Dec (J. Talkington, J. Lehman, m.ob.) likely lingered from the fall season. Recalling an inland 2001 specimen record along the *Sandusky R.*, several C.B.C. participants watched another gannet flying over a cornfield near *Fremont*, *Sandusky*, OH 23 Dec (GLI, B. Zweibel, P. Kaestner, K. Overman)! An American White Pelican over *Ohio River Islands N.W.R.*, *Wood*, WV 20 Dec (E. Elliot) may have been the same individual found downstream at *Greenbottom W.A.*, *Mason*, WV 27 Dec (G. Ackert).

Table 1. Horned Grebes found in the Ohio and West Virginia during late January and early February 2008.

Number	Location	Date	Observer
3	<i>Tucker</i> WV (grounded)	25 Jan	R. Tallman
2	<i>Randolph</i> , WV (grounded)	30 Jan	R. Tallman
1	<i>Mason</i> , WV	1 Feb	D. Patick
6	<i>Wetzel</i> , WV	1 Feb	W. Jarell
1	<i>Tuscarawas</i> , OH (grounded)	1 Feb	B. Glick
3	<i>Putnam</i> , WV	1 Feb	K. Kazmierski
1	<i>Clark</i> , OH	2 Feb	D. Overacker
9	<i>Warren</i> , OH	2 Feb	R. Asamoto
1	<i>Hamilton</i> , OH	2 Feb	B. Wulker
1	<i>Bucks</i> , PA	2 Feb	K. Kitson
1	<i>Wyandot</i> , OH	2 Feb	D. Graham
11	<i>Monongalia</i> , WV	4 Feb	J. Boback

American Bittern reports included singles in *Cumberland*, PA 15 Dec (C. Rebert), along the L. Erie shoreline at *Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve*, *Erie*, OH 27 Dec–12 Jan (L. Gorbet, A. Maruster, BWh et al.), at *John Heinz N.W.R.*, *Philadelphia*, PA 29 Dec (T. Croasdale), and in *Hardin* wetlands, OH 13 Jan (RC). A Green Heron lingered in *Cumberland*, PA 15 Dec (D. Ream). Record numbers of Great Egrets lingered in the Region; 7 flying along the *Cleveland lakefront* 13 Jan (RHn) allowed for an amazing sight; 3 were at *Medusa Marsh*, *Erie*, OH through 7 Jan (JP, m.ob.), with one remaining until 23 Feb (CC); and singles were in *Mason* through 15 Dec (DP), at *Byrd Dam* 3 Dec (WA), at *East Harbor S.P.*, *Ottawa*, OH 23 Dec (JP), at *Orleans Park*, *Wood*,



This Long-billed Murrelet found by Jason Horn at Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania on 14 December 2007 represented a long-awaited first state record. Photograph by Gerry Dewaghe.



Captured for banding, this Rufous Hummingbird was in Richland, Ohio 19 December 2007; a few are now expected to linger well into the winter season across lower Midwest. Photograph by Cheryl Harner.

OH 8 Jan (MA), and in *Hocking* 10-12 Jan (ph. N. Hawranick). Up to 16 Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered along the Olentangy R. at Columbus (AB, A. Sewell, RL), while 71 were at the roost at Cleveland 12 Jan (D. Lewis). A very late *Plegadis* ibis at Medusa Marsh, Erie, OH 23 Dec (JP) was likely one of the 2 reported there in late Nov.

VULTURES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Several southbound Turkey Vultures were observed in early Jan, including 2 in *Geauga* 8 Jan (I. Schmidt), 2 over *Lucas* 10 Jan and 5 Jan, and one in *Sandusky* (fide VF). Three Black Vultures over New Waterford, *Mahoning*, OH 1 Jan (ph. J. Dolan, C. Bretz, B. Lane) were pushing their northerly limits. Completely unexpected was another Black in *Cuyahoga* 24 Dec (GL), while 115 in *Holmes* 5 Jan (fide BG) set a new Ohio record count. Six hundred ten Blacks on the 2008 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania was a record high (fide GG). A Northern Goshawk irrup-

tion was evident in the w. Region, where ads. were reported in *Lake* (JP), *Seneca* (TB), *Lucas* (GLi), and *Cuyahoga* (CC) 8-21 Dec. A tally of 29 Bald Eagles in *Hardy*, WV 9 Feb (J. Masi, D. Carr) provided an excellent local count. A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk was at Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lancaster*, PA in late Dec (fide MM), and another was in *Cumberland*, PA 12 Jan (V. Gauthier). A late ad. Golden eagle over *Holmes* 4 Dec (K. Kline) was rare in ne. Ohio. A Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*) at Germantown Metropark, *Montgomery* 24 Jan-1 Feb provided Ohio's 3rd record (fide VF). One of the highlights of the season in PA was an ad. Prairie Falcon along Mud Level Rd., *Cumberland*, PA 23 Feb through the end of the period (R. & P. Freed, m.ob., ph). The bird was unbanded and "acted wild." A record 60 Sandhill Cranes wintered in Ohio, with a flock of 38 in a *Highland* field 18-19 Jan (LG). Within weeks, the cranes were moving again, an Ohio record 85 cranes were detected northbound in late Feb. A Virginia Rail in *Jefferson*, WV 9 Feb (MO) was very early, and one lingered at Quakertown Swamp, *Bucks* PA 1 Jan (DF). A Sora in *Holmes* 1 Jan (R. Herschberger, BG et al.) furnished the 3rd Jan report for Ohio.

Two Lesser Yellowlegs were seen on the

24 Feb (V. Gauthier, A. Markel) furnished a rare report of an apparently wintering bird in the Region. Purple Sandpipers at L. Erie included one that lingered at Headlands 8 Dec (B. Baber), 2 that flew past another *Lake*, OH location 16 Dec (JP), and one at Presque Isle 14-16 Dec (BC, JM). Wintering Wilson's Snipe were found in *Hardin*, OH 13 Jan (RC) and at *Cumberland*, PA 8 Feb (H. Weigl), and there were up to 13 in *Bucks* 16 Dec-18 Feb (fide AM) and 8 at New Wilmington, *Lawrence*, PA through Feb (fide PH). Single American Woodcocks in Pennsylvania were found on Christmas counts at Reading 22 Dec (fide RK) and Hamburg 30 Dec, with 2 others in *Bucks* 14 Dec (DF, R. Frock), and one in *Chester* on the late date of 18 Jan (S. Johnson).

Little Gulls were scarce, with duos at Headlands 3 Dec (RHn) and in *Lake*, OH 4 Jan (JP). An ad. Franklin's Gull in *Lake*, OH 15 Dec (JP) was late. About 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA 30 Jan provided a notable local count (G. Franchois), while another along the Shenandoah R., *Jefferson*, WV 11 Feb (MO) was exceptionally early. A Mew Gull was photographed at Tullytown 27 Dec (BC). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were in *Lorain*, OH 10 Dec (GH, CC et al.), on the Ohio R. at Portsmouth, *Scioto*, OH 19 Dec (B. Palmer-Ball et al.), and on the Maumee R., *Lucas* and *Wood*, OH 2 Feb (TK, MA). It was a record season for Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Ohio, with 27 in the Central Basin, 22 along the Cleveland lakefront 12 Jan (JBr), 15 in the Western Basin—all but one along the Maumee R. 2 Feb (TK)—and one ad. inland at C.F.R. 1-13 Dec (JH). In contrast, few Great Black-backed Gulls were evident, with 500 at Cleveland 12 Jan (JBr). A Slaty-backed Gull at Tullytown 21 Dec-16 Jan (ph. TJ, m.ob.) was the first for Pennsylvania. There was a

SA The southbound migration of Sandhill Cranes, which straddles the fall and winter seasons, accounted for more than 3400 birds across 12 counties in w. Ohio, establishing a record total. After 1100 cranes moved through the state during the final week of Nov, another 1600 were observed 1-4 Dec (J. Lundberg, B. Powell, E. Neubauer, R. Demmy, C. Caprette, B. Lombardo, K. Rudolph, D. Snuffer, R. Sams, R. Clifford, MA), including 700 over East Fork S.P., *Clermont* (L. Romine). Later flights of cranes included 125 on 8 Dec, 160 during 16-18 Dec, 360 during 30 Dec-2 Jan, and an astonishing 75 over *Clermont*, OH 7 Jan (T. Stanley). A flock of 5 Sandhill Cranes lingered in *Jefferson*, WV 29 Nov-19 Dec (MO), and 24 wintered in *Lawrence*, PA (L. Wagner).

Glenholden, PA C.B.C. 15 Dec (S. Conant et al.). A Spotted Sandpiper was found along the Maumee R., Orleans Park, *Wood*, OH 5-7 Jan (L. Stiefel, TK, SD) for an exceptional mid-winter report in the L. Erie Basin. Lingering shorebirds included a Ruddy Turnstone at Presque Isle 15 Dec (BC) and a Least Sandpiper at Caesar Creek 8 Dec (RA), while another Least at Big Springs, *Cumberland*, PA 2-

modest showing of white-winged gulls on L. Erie, with about 11 Glaucous and 5 Icelanders from the Central Basin. Another Iceland Gull at C.F.R. 17 & 24 Dec (JH) was exceptional inland; in Pennsylvania, 8 were at Tullytown 21 Jan (TJ). The 3 Thayer's Gulls within the Central Basin were typical for the season. An outstanding discovery was Pennsylvania's first Long-billed Murrelet at L. Nockamixon 14



This Orange-crowned Warbler first noted 10 February 2008 (here 1 March) was part of a remarkable assemblage of late-season warblers wintering at the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority Plant in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Photograph by J. Eric Witmer.

Dec (J. Horn, m.ob., ph GD).

The only Snowy Owl in Ohio, at Point Place, Lucas 2 Dec (*fide* S. Milliron) was featured by local media. One in Adams, PA in mid-Dec succumbed 20 Dec (*fide* M. O'Brien). A well-described White-winged Dove was in Holmes, OH 14 Dec (J. P. Miller) for Ohio's first winter report. The 3 Eurasian Collared-Doves at West Manchester, Preble, OH were relocated 12 Jan–3 Feb (JHg, RA, BWh et al.); according to local residents, the birds had been present about three years. Another collared-dove appeared at a Tuscarawas, OH feeder 10–21 Dec (ph. RS). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were at a traditional spot at Shady Grove, Franklin, PA 26 Feb (AM). Single ad. female Rufous Hummingbirds remained at McDonald, Washington, PA through 6 Dec (*fide* PH), Cincinnati through 11 Dec (J. Hays), in Richland, OH through 2 Jan (JH), and Allen, OH through 10 Jan (L. Houshower), while one at Burgettstown, Washington, PA since 22 Nov succumbed to sub-freezing temperatures 4 Jan (P. Briggs). The female Rufous at Reinholds, Berks, PA remained until 20 Dec (A. Wright). An imm. female Rufous was seen on the Lititz, PA C.B.C. 30 Dec, and an imm. male was seen during the count week (*fide* B. & S. Carl). Other Rufous included one banded in Dauphin, PA

31 Oct and last seen 16 Dec (*fide* R. Protz) and a female at Fawn Grove, York last seen 15 Jan (F. Linardi). The remarkable Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Toledo lingered until 5 Dec (SD).

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES

The only Loggerhead Shrike reports came from Jefferson, WV 8 Dec (J. Little) and 7–12 Feb (MO, CD) and from Adams, PA throughout the season (m.ob.). Seventeen Pileated Woodpeckers on the Glenolden C.B.C. 15 Dec was a new high (NP). Mid-winter

Eastern Phoebe were n. to Pike, OH 20 Jan (DO) and Killbuck Marsh WA, Wayne, OH 2 Jan (BG), and one lingered in Media, Delaware, PA 28 Jan (D. McGovern). Two Blue-headed Vireos lingered at Ridley Creek S.P., Delaware 11 Dec (A. McGann). Marsh Wren reports included singles in Wayne, OH 6 Jan (SW), Indian Creek W.M.A., Brown, OH 15 Feb (DMs), and in Jefferson, WV 27 Feb (MO), and up to 4 at Spring Valley W.A., Greene, OH 29 Jan–11 Feb (JHg, P. Dubuc). Twelve Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found in Ohio into Jan, including 3 in Guernsey 10 Jan (VF). A total of 46 Ruby-crowned Kinglets on Christmas counts in Bucks, PA doubled the long-term average (AM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher brightened L. Nockamixon 12 Dec (B. Etter). A total of 594 Carolina Wrens on three C.B.C.s in Bucks, PA was well above average (*fide* AM).

A remarkable roost of more than 100,000 American Robins was in Collier Twp., Allegheny, PA 31 Dec–8 Jan (S. Kinzey et al.), and record numbers of robins wintered across Ohio. A Varied Thrush near Bethel, Berks, PA 7 Jan (S. Brady) was well described. The 29 Hermit Thrushes on the Glenolden, PA C.B.C. 15 Dec set a new high count (NP). Up to 3 Gray Catbirds were in Tuscarawas, OH 26

Dec (*fide* BG), with another along the L. Erie shoreline in Lake, OH 7 Jan–14 Feb (RHn). Three Gray Catbirds wintered in Bucks, PA (BE, BK) and one was out of place in Erie, PA 3 Feb (R. Snyder). Five American Pipits were n. to Wyandot, OH 22 Jan (RC); elsewhere, 45 in Holmes 26–27 Jan (ES), 70 in Clermont 20 Feb (DMs), 48 in Jefferson, WV 18 Jan (MO), and 300 at Maple Knoll Farms, Bucks, PA through Jan (R. Smith) furnished good local counts for the time of year. Part of a widespread flight in the East and Midwest, 2 Bohemian Waxwings were at Rocky R., Cuyahoga, OH 11–13 Dec (BWh, D. Sanders, B. Warner), and singles were at Shippensburg, Clarion, PA 9 Dec (M. Weible), at Kunkletown, Monroe, PA 16 Dec (CH), at Presque Isle 18 Dec (ph. B. Master), and in Lake, OH 12 Jan (JP).

Orange-crowned Warblers in Pennsylvania were at Langhorne, Bucks 10 Dec–5 Jan (GD), Honey Hollow, Bucks 29 Dec (B. Friedermann), and Prospect Park, Delaware 29 Feb (J. Miller). One at Lancaster Area Sewer Authori-

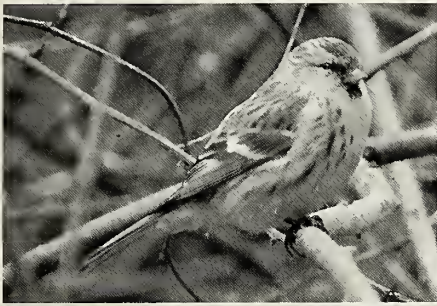


Truly extraordinary in winter anywhere in eastern North America, this Blackburnian Warbler lit up the winter scene in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from 23 December 2007 through 10 February 2008 (here 19 January). Photograph by J. Eric Witmer.

ty Plant, Washington Boro, Lancaster 10–24 Feb (ph. EW et al.) was part of a colorful array of wintering warblers that included an amazing Blackburnian Warbler 23 Dec–10 Feb (J. Heller, ph. EW) and 40 Yellow-rumped that wintered (EW). A tally of 99 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the Central Bucks County, PA C.B.C. 30 Dec was triple the long-term average (*fide* AM). A Northern Parula that visited John Heinz N.W.R. 8 Dec (F. Winfelder, *fide* S. Kacir) furnished about the 4th Nov/Dec report in for the Region. Western Palm Warblers in Ohio were found in Cochocton 5 Dec (JMH), Hamilton 25 Jan (W. Hull), and an extraordinary wintering bird in Holmes, OH 22 Dec–11 Feb (ES et al.). In Pennsylvania, up to 4 Palms (both Yellow and Western) wintered at the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority Plant (EW et al.), and a Yellow Palm was at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, PA 23 Jan (T. Croasdale). Unexpected Pine Warblers in Ohio included singles at Columbus 14 Jan (AB) and in Cler-

SA The Northern Shrike irruption proved to be a record-setter across the Region. In Ohio, about 45 were reported, exceeding the record flights of the 1990s. In West Virginia, where there were only three documented reports (and three other plausible reports) previously, observers found shrikes at four sites: in Brooke 10–30 Dec (J. Castro, JBo, MO, m.ob.), at Canaan Valley 5–12 Jan (G. Felton), in Berkeley 26–29 Jan (S. Miller, MO, B. Dean, CD), and in Marshall 23 Feb (D. Butler). In Pennsylvania, at least 80 birds were reported in 39 counties, establishing the second-largest irruption ever, with 24 of these on Christmas counts. More than half of Pennsylvania's Northern Shrikes were discovered before or during Dec. Shrikes were reported from all parts of the state, with 13 in Clarion. Allowing for differences in observer density, examination of the 80 reports suggests areas of abundance in the nw., the se., and the Susquehanna drainage in the center of the state. This pattern was also evident during the 1999–2000 irruption.

This note was compiled with the assistance of Greg Grove.



A large flock of redpolls attending feeders at Bushy Run Battlefield, Westmoreland County, for much of January and February 2008 contained this pale bird (here 2 February), apparently a Hoary. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

mont 3-21 Jan (KPH). Another Pine that wintered in Wayne (C. Herms, ph. L. Stoller, SS) was one of 7 present in the Allegheny foothills of Ohio. Pine Warblers in Bucks, PA included singles at Perkasi in early Dec (fide AM) and Langhorne 17 Dec-1 Jan (GD), and up to 2 at Levittown 9 Feb+ (T. Matijasick), one a Deer L., Schuylkill 31 Jan (L. Goodrich), and one at Enola, Cumberland, PA 15 Dec (D. Small). An Ovenbird visited a Chardon, Geauga, OH feeder sporadically 10 Dec-20 Jan (ph. S. Isacco). A Common Yellowthroat was in Erie, OH 12 Jan (BWh et al.). Notable was a Wilson's Warbler was on the Harrisburg, PA C.B.C. 15 Dec (DH), while a Yellow-breasted Chat brightened Churchville Res., Bucks 28 Feb (Bill Keim).

A Dickcissel was a surprise at Wooster, Wayne 22 Dec (R. Troutman). A flock of 21 Field Sparrows at Jaite marsh, Summit 19 Jan (GL) furnished a high mid-winter count for ne. Ohio. After large numbers lingered during this past fall, Chipping Sparrows wintered widely in small numbers across Ohio, including 3 at a Guernsey feeder 11 Jan (VF), 4 at a Holmes feeder 20-26 Feb (ES), singles during Jan in Pickaway (VF) and Darke (VF), and duos in Wayne (Allen Troyer) and Tuscarawas (BM). Two Chippings wintered in Bucks, PA (M. Rutbell). Unprecedented for Ohio, a Clay-colored Sparrow wintered in Ottawa (ph. M. & J. Shieldcastle), and another lingered in Holmes, OH through 8 Dec (J. P. Miller). The late-season freeze drove American Tree Sparrows farther south: 400 were in sw. Ohio 23 Feb (P. Wharton). Notable mid-winter Savannah Sparrow counts included 20 at Byrd Dam 19 Jan (DP). A Lark Sparrow lingered at Houtzdale, Clearfield, PA 2-13 Dec (S. & M. Belin), while another was an unexpected feeder visitor in Berkeley, WV 26-28 Feb (S. Roachy). Two Grasshopper Sparrows appeared in Holmes, OH, singles near Sugar Creek 26 Jan-9 Feb (ES, ph. BG) and near Charm (JEY), while another Grasshopper lingered at Meadville, Crawford, PA through 21 Dec (M. Carone). A Harris's Sparrow was a

Christmas treat for feeder watchers at Black Swamp B.O., Ottawa, OH 25 Dec (ph. D. Buchner); another was in Cochocton, OH 27 Jan+ (Adam Yoder, JEY, m.ob.). An excellent tally of 237 White-crowned Sparrows was on the Buffalo Creek C.B.C., Washington, PA 16 Dec (L. Helgerman), and a Lincoln's Sparrow enlivened the Dallas, PA C.B.C. 15 Dec (fide JHn). One of the strongest movements of Snow Buntings into the Region was noted this season. It picked up momentum with 350 in Erie, OH 3 Jan (VF), and immense flocks subsequently gathered in the n. L. Plains, such as 5000 in Sandusky 26 Jan (TB), 5000 in sw. Ottawa, OH 9 Feb (JP), 2000 in s. Wood, OH 6 Feb (B. Rinehart), and 1000 at a feeding station in Morrow, OH 27 Feb (Albert Troyer). A flock of 255 in Ashtabula, OH 14 Feb (CH) furnished an excellent tally for the Central Basin, and 300 were seen at New Wilmington, Lawrence, PA during Feb (PH, J. Valimont). Lapland Longspurs were numerous, with 300 s. to Greene, OH 16 Dec (RA) and 100 in Holmes, OH 18 Dec (RS) that provided an excellent count for the Allegheny foothills.

A male Indigo Bunting wintered at a feeder at Swarthmore, Delaware, PA (fide DE, ph B. Soch et al.). Wintering Rusty Blackbirds were well represented, with 75 at Quakertown Swamp, Bucks, PA 1 Jan (DF), 100+ at Tofree's Pond, Centre, PA 14 Jan (J. Verica), and a remarkable 620 among other blackbirds in Guernsey, OH 11 Jan (VF). Brewer's Blackbirds in Ohio included 5 along the Ross/Pickaway line 1 Jan (D. Linzell et al.) and singles in Stark 15 Jan (BM), Darke 16 Jan (VF), Franklin 12 Feb (B. Heck), and Clermont 22 Feb (DMs). A Baltimore Oriole brightened the season in Mercer, WV 23 Dec (M. Mullins), while 6 were in Bucks, PA as late as 2 Feb (m.ob., fide AM). The male Bullock's Oriole in Juniata, PA was still present 19 Jan (C. Kauffman, A. Troyer). Yellow-headed Blackbirds made brief appearances in Ohio in Delaware 16 Dec (SWs), Sandusky 24 Dec (fide VF), and Clermont 20 Feb (K. Sabo), with duos in Pennsylvania on the Southern Lancaster County C.B.C. 16 Dec (fide BS) and in West Sadsbury Twp., Chester 17 Jan (DH).

Common Redpolls were found in about 40 Ohio counties—nearly half of the state—for the strongest irruption since 1978-1979; Pennsylvania totals were led by 225 on the Dallas C.B.C. 15 Dec (fide JHn) and 250+ at Milk Can Corners, Susquehanna in Feb (H. Flavell). One reached Wetzel, WV 29 Jan (WJ). A well-documented Hoary Redpoll in Holmes early Jan+ (Levi Yoder, Paul Herschberger, BG, m.ob.) provided the first for Ohio away from L. Erie. At least 8 documented Hoary Redpolls in Pennsylvania included

different duos in Edinboro, Erie 4 Jan and 4 Feb (D. Snyder), 2 at Kunkletown, Monroe 22 Dec (CH), and singles at Buck Hill Falls, Monroe 20 Dec (E. Kendall), near Montrose, Susquehanna 24-25 Dec (N. Wottrich), at Milk Can Corners, Susquehanna 19+ Feb (H. Flavell), and at Bushy Run Battlefield, Westmoreland 18 Jan-9 Feb (MM, GM, M. Filalkovich et al.). The maximum Regional count of Evening Grosbeaks was 20 at Canaan Valley, Tucker, WV 1 Jan (fide C. Rucker). The 2 Pine Grosbeaks at Oak Openings, Lucas, OH remained through 20 Dec (GH, GLI, AB et al.), with one female at Longwood Gardens, Chester, PA 16 Jan (S. Johnson). Regional high counts for White-winged Crossbills came from Pennsylvania, with 80 in three flocks at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks 12 Dec (D. Barber, A. Koch) and 11 at Longwood Gardens, Chester 27 Dec (NP, SP). A flock of 16 Red Crossbills was in Hamilton, OH 8 Dec (W. Wauligman). Nine Reds were tallied on the Indiana, PA C.B.C. 26 Dec (D. & M. Cuckleman), and 9 were at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, PA 8 Dec (L. Goodrich).

Fall 2007 report not published previously: A King Rail was at Byrd Dam, Mason, WV 27 Nov (WA).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in bold): Matt Anderson, Wendell Argabrite, Rick Asamoto, Tom Bartlett, John Boback (JBo), Aaron Boone, Jenny Brumfield (JBr), Craig Caldwell, Ben Coulter, Rick Counts, Carol Del-Colle, Gerry Dewaghe, Sherrie Duris, David Eberly, Jeanette Eskerain, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Victor Fazio, Robert Foppe, Bruce Glick, Greg Grove, John Habig (JHg), Ray Hannikman (RHn), John Herman, Paul Hess, Deuane Hoffman, Craig Holt, Gabe Hostetler, Jim Hoyson (JHn), Corey Husic, Wilma Jarell, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Ned Keller, Rudy Keller, Tom Kemp, Gabe Leidy, Greg Links (GLI), Rob Lowry, Geoff Malosh, Mark McConaughy [Central PA Birdline], Jerry McWilliams, August Mirabella, Ben Morrison, Donald Morse, Jr. (DMs), Matt Orsie, Doug Overacker, David Patick, John Pogacnik, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Cameron Rutt, John Salvetti, Bob Schutsky, Ed Schlabach, Robert Schlabach, Su Snyder, Jack Stenger (Jks), Doug Vogus, Bill Whan (BWh), Samuel Weaver, Dustin Welch, Sean Williams (SWs), Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Mark Vass, James E. Yoder (JEY). ☺

Victor W. Fazio, III, 18722 Newell Street

Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, (bcvireo@sbcglobal.net)

Rick Wiltraut, P. O. Box 294

Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania 18353, (rwiltraut@state.pa.us)

Illinois & Indiana



James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

This winter was one of the wettest and snowiest in recent memory, with the Region receiving twice its typical accumulation of snow. Fort Wayne, Indiana recorded its most snow ever during February, and Chicago endured its fifth snowiest February on record. But the Region's precipitation also came in the form of rain, sleet, and ice, with statewide average totals of 26 cm in Illinois and 34 cm in Indiana. In fact, it was the fourth wettest winter on record for the Region. Temperatures fluctuated widely well above and well below normal during the season, but the season overall was just a few degrees colder than expected. Chicago endured twice the normal number of days with subzero temperatures, and its near-neighbor, Gary, Indiana, recorded a high temperature of 70° F (21° C) 7 January, when less than two weeks later the lakefront high reached only 5° F (-15° C). Rarities found this season were a Brant, several Prairie Falcons, a Slaty-backed Gull, and a Glaucous-winged Gull. Other Regional highlights included unprecedented numbers of Merlins and lingering shorebirds and impressive invasions of Bohemian Waxwings, crossbills, and redpolls.

Abbreviations: Arklands (Arklands Reclamation Area, Perry, IL); Beverly Shores (Porter, IN); Carlyle L. (s. Illinois); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Hawthorn (Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan, IN); Horseshoe L. (Madison, IL); Illinois Beach (Illinois Beach S.P.); Michigan City (Michigan City Harbor, La Porte, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Chicago's Lincoln Park).

WATERFOWL

Peak counts of most geese and swans were at normal levels, but down from the elevated to-

als of the past few winter seasons. The 8 Ross's Geese at Summit Lake S.P. 24 Feb (SAP) represented a nice winter count, as did 56 Tundra Swans at Kankakee F.W.A., Starke, IN 27 Dec (JCK). The 40 Trumpeter Swans in Edgar, IL 23 Feb (EWW) were reflective of the continued growth of this species' presence in Illinois. Indiana's first Brant since 2001 was a juv. at AEP power plant n. of Rockford, Spencer 21 Jan–1 Feb (DA, m.ob.). Dabbling ducks were somewhat less abundant in Illinois than in typical winters, although single Blue-winged Teal at Carlyle L. 9 Dec (DMK) and Winthrop Harbor 13 Dec (EWW) were notable. Diving ducks were reported in numbers lower than normal, exemplified by paltry peaks of 900 Canvasbacks and 60 Redheads at Horseshoe L. 18 Feb (KAM), although a fine tally of 1200 Greater Scaup came from Whiting, IN 12 Jan (JCK). Up to 3 Harlequin Ducks (2 females and a first-winter male) were discovered at Port of Indiana 16 Feb+ (JJM, RLH), while singles at Chicago were a female 6 Dec (DFS) and a male 8 Dec–8 Jan (ph. GAW, Jeff Sanders, m.ob.).

Surf Scoters moved inland in Indiana, with singles at Mississinewa Res., Wabash 8 Dec (MLR) and L. Gibson 11 Dec (G&LB), plus 5 at L. Monroe 14 Dec (DRW). Excellent numbers of White-winged Scoters were present this season, especially at L. Michigan, where there were 20 at West Beach, IN 3 Dec (JJM)

13 Feb (DRW). Fifteen Black Scoters were at Beverly Shores 1 Dec (JCK), 2 others were at Montrose 7 Dec (RDH), and others were scattered inland: singles at L. Monroe, IN 12 Dec and 4 Jan (DRW), East Fork L., Richland, IL 15 Dec (CLH), and 2 at Carlyle L. 26 Dec (DMK, JDC). A female Long-tailed Duck appeared in Putnam, IN 12 Dec+ (DW fide BP), 4 were at Beverly Shores 15 Dec (AA et al.), and trios each appeared at Montrose 31 Dec (LGM) and Illinois Beach 31 Dec (EWW). A Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid was found at Chicago 28 Jan (DFS, ph. GAW). There were 270 Hooded Mergansers at Brookville Res., Union and Franklin, IN 3 Feb (WHB, ED, DA-M). A notable 15,000 Common Mergansers were tallied at La Salle L., La Salle, IL 7 Jan (C&JM).

PARTRIDGE THROUGH FALCONS

A lone Gray Partridge in Rock Island, IL 20 Dec (KJM) reflected the continued scarcity of this exotic gamebird. The 33 Greater Prairie-Chickens at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Jasper, IL 18 Jan (RES) were reduced from totals of previous years. An amazing 85 Red-throated Loons tallied at several lakefront locations 26 Dec (JJM) shattered Indiana's previous high count, while 2 others (ad., juv.) were at L. Monroe for much of Dec (DRW). The best Red-throated counts in Illinois were trios each at Carlyle L. 1 Dec (DMK) and



Indiana's first in the past seven years, this juvenile Brant was found by David Ayer fairly close to the Ohio River in Spencer County on 21 (here 30) January 2008 and remained for 12 days. Photograph by John C. Kendall.

and 29 at Montrose 28 Feb (David Antieau). White-winged also showed well inland, with 18 at East Fork L., Richland, IL 29 Feb (CLH), 9 at L. Charleston, Coles, IL 23 Feb (Lawrence B. Hunt, m.ob.), and singles inland in Indiana at L. Lemon, Monroe 10 Dec (J&SH), Clear L., Steuben 12 Jan (JAH, SS, RS), and L. Monroe

Winthrop Harbor 23 Feb (DTW, BCW). Single Pacific Loons were at Horseshoe L. 9 Dec (FRH) and L. Monroe 15 Dec (DRW), while one at Hammond Sanctuary 21 Jan (EMH) provided the lakefront's first winter report. The juv. Red-necked Grebe at L. Gibson, IN continued until 10 Feb (G&LB), while another

er was noted at Baldwin L., *Randolph*, IL 26-27 Jan and 16 Feb (TJD, KAM, MS, MTh). Two Eared Grebes were reported in the Region this season. Single Western Grebes were near Montrose 4-7 Dec (SBB, m.ob.), at Beverly Shores 15 Dec (AA et al.), Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 17 Dec (ER), Michigan City 29-30 Dec (JKC, SRB, RJP, LP, KJB, JCK), Whiting 30 Dec (JJM), and Hammond Sanctuary 1 Jan (JKC, SRB, LSH, KJB). An injured American White Pelican in *Newton* in mid-Dec that was captured in mid-Jan for rehabilitation (JSC) furnished Indiana's 2nd Jan report. Single American Bitterns at Goose Pond 11 & 26 Dec (LWS, BF) and Chinook Mine, *Clay* 14 Dec (MJ) provided winter reports in Indiana for the 2nd consecutive winter.

Northern stretches of the Mississippi R. hosted good numbers of Bald Eagles this season, exemplified by 1032 in *Whiteside* and *Rock Island* 12-13 Dec (KJM). An Osprey at Hovey L., *Posy*, IN 11 Feb (RC *fide* SSo) was notable. Northern Goshawks in *Lawrence*, IL 4 Dec (RES, CLH) and *Woodford*, IL 24 Feb (MF) were the only reports received. A nice count of 17 Cooper's Hawks came from Rockford, IL 15 Dec (DTW, BCW). Large numbers of Red-tailed Hawks were present in n. Illinois, with 123 in *Ogle* and *Winnebago* 29 Dec (DTW, BCW) providing the highest daily tally. A fine total of 30 Rough-legged Hawks was tallied in *Greene* and *Sullivan*, IN 19 Feb (DRW). Of the 16 Golden Eagles reported in Indiana, 3 were at L. Monroe 9 Feb (DRW), while reports in Illinois included ads. in *Whiteside* 18 Dec (KJM, LB), *Vermilion* 26 Dec (MFC, MJE, VB) and near Quad Cities 15 Jan (RWM). A phenomenal 38 Merlins were reported from Indiana, including a state high of 11 in *Sullivan* 16 Feb (LWS, DG) that apparently were heading to a nocturnal roost. An ad. and a juv. Prairie Falcon wintered at Hawthorn (ph. J&SH), with possibly another bird 40 km se. in *Daviess*, IN 1 Feb (J&SH). Illinois hosted Prairie Falcons as well; singles in *Champaign* 2 & 30 Dec (ph. BG, ph. GL, DL), at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, *Jasper* 25 Jan (RES, CLH), and *Clinton* 30 Jan and 2 Feb (ph. MS, DMK).

RAILS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Virginia Rail was found at the traditional wintering site at Beverly Shores 15 Dec (BB, JKC et al.), and other singles were at Illinois Beach 1-5 Jan (EWW) and nearby North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor 9 Feb (TK, CT). The 120 Killdeer at Carlyle L. 15 Dec (DMK) furnished a very high count. The Ruddy Turnstone that was at the Hammond Sanctuary this past fall was likely the same bird found at Whiting 10 Dec (CAM), at Hammond Sanctu-

ary 22 Dec (KJB, SRB, JKC, RJP), and elsewhere in the area until 23 Jan (LP). Other lingering shorebirds included an alternate-plumaged Ruddy Turnstone at Waukegan, IL 11-19 Dec (EWW, DW), 3 Least Sandpipers and one Pectoral Sandpiper in *Jasper*, IL 8 Dec (EWW), and single Least Sandpipers at L. Lemon, *Brown*, IN 16 Dec (J&SH), Carlyle L. 18 Dec (KAM), and L. Monroe, IN 18 Dec (DRW). The season's sole Purple Sandpiper was at Waukegan, IL 11-13 Dec (ph. EWW, m.ob.). Three Dunlins lingered in the Region, with the latest remaining at Hammond Sanctuary 25-26 Dec (RDH, JCK, CAM). A Red Phalarope at Carlyle L. 25 Dec (MS) was tardy.

A juv. Pomarine Jaeger lingered at Horse-shoe L. 8-15 Dec (KAM, FRH). A substantial count of 7500 Bonaparte's Gulls came from

Great Black-backed Gulls was made at Whiting, IN 3 Jan (JCK, MT, CAM).

Two Barn Owls at Carlyle L. 18 Dec and 21 Jan (KAM, MS) provided the only Illinois reports, while singles in Indiana were found in *LaGrange* 18-21 Jan and 15 Feb (DS, LS, PM, MM, KB et al.) and Chinook Mine, *Clay* 25 Jan (JS). Snowy Owls were at Chicago 7 Dec (CLW), *Winnebago*, IL 8-26 Dec (DTW, DMi), and Montrose 13-16 Dec (RDH, m.ob.). It was a good season for Long-eared Owls, with 5 at Kankakee Sands, *Newton*, IN 10 Jan (JCK) and 7 in *Will*, IL 7 Feb (MAM). The high tally of Short-eared Owls was 45 at Hawthorn 19 Dec (DRW). Two Northern Saw-whet Owls were found at their traditional wintering spot at Tremont, *Porter*, IN 25 Dec (RJP). Three Rufous Hummingbirds were reported in Indiana,



Part of a large influx of Bohemian Waxwings on the Indiana lakefront, this individual was photographed at Dunes State Park, Porter County 28 January 2008. Photograph by John C. Kendall.

Rend L., *Franklin*, IL 30 Dec (KAM et al.). Numbers of most winter gulls were rather typical for the Region, but a wealth of rarities at Carlyle L. added much Regional excitement. Most unusual was a subad. Mew Gull 23-24 Feb that appeared most like the subspecies *kamtschatschensis* (ph. DMK, m.ob.). If indeed it were a Kamchatka Gull, it would overshadow even the ad. Slaty-backed Gull present 16-18 Dec (ph. DMK, MS, KAM, m.ob.), which represented Illinois's 2nd record. The continuing ad. Glaucous-winged Gull remained until 25 Feb (DMK, KAM, MS, m.ob.). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at Rockford, IL 29 Dec (DTW, BCW, JLh) seems blasé by comparison. A notable count of 11

with one lingering until 5 Jan (*fide* DG), while singles were banded in *Williamson*, IL early Dec-16 Dec and 4 Jan (CH, *fide* RR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Eastern Phoebe have become regular winter visitors; at least 13 birds were reported this season, including 2 at Hoosier N.F. 15 Dec (JL, SRE, CF). A nice tally of 7 Loggerhead Shrikes was logged at Arklands 27 Dec (KJM et al.). Northern Shrikes were numerous and widespread; among nearly 40 in Illinois, 7 were in Rockford 15 Dec (DTW, BCW) and one was s. to *Lawrence* 6-7 Dec (RES, CLH). Indiana tallied shrikes from at least 13 sites, including duos at Potato Creek S.P. 19 & 25

Dec (RH), Chinook Mine, *Clay* 5 Jan (DG, JS), Hawthorn 12 Jan (MRB), Salamonie Res. 17 Jan (JAH), and Summit Lake S.P. 18 Jan (SAP). Sizeable flocks of Horned Larks were reported, such as 2000 at Carlyle L. 1 Feb (DMK) and 1058 in *McDonough*, IL 15 Dec (LLH). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at East Fork L., *Richland*, IL 7 Dec (CLH), was unusually late and represented the only swallow noted in the Region. Red-breasted Nuthatches were plentiful and widespread. A single House Wren was seen at Carlyle L. 8 Dec (DMK). Two Marsh Wrens were at Goose Pond 19 Dec (*fide* LWS), and one was at Arklands 27 Dec (DMK).

Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, and American Robins were scarce across the Region. However, the 11 Gray Catbirds and 21 Brown Thrashers reported Regionwide furnished above-average totals; a late thrasher at Cowles Bog, *Porter*, IN 31 Jan (RSh) was very rare for the lakefront. Two Townsend's Solitaires were seen at Beverly Shores 1 Dec, and one lingered through 9 Feb (JCK, JJM, SRB, RJP). A male Varied Thrush enlivened Zionsville, *Boone*, IN 15 Dec (ph. JC). Notably large groups of American Pipits included 80 at Carlyle L. 15 Dec (DMK) and 80 at Union County C.A., IL 29 Dec (JDC). Unprecedented for the Indiana lakefront were pipits at Whiting 10 Dec (CAM) and Michigan City 15 Dec (KJB, ph. JKC, ph. PBG, JJM). The largest influx of Bohemian Waxwings in at least 80 years occurred along the Indiana lakefront, with maxima of 30 at Dunes 28 Jan (BJG) and up to 12 at Porter Beach (w. of Dunes) 29 Jan–2 Feb (LP, DS, LS et al.). A flock of 250 Cedar Waxwings was at Valparaiso, *Porter*, IN 10 Feb (JCK).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Yellow-throated Warbler that visited an Indianapolis feeder 4–30 Dec (BL-S) provided the 2nd winter report for Indiana. Very rare in n. Indiana during winter, a Pine Warbler attended a feeder in Elkhart early Feb–17 Feb (FM, ph. EM), while another was noted at L. Murphysboro S.P., *Jackson*, IL 1 Jan (KJM, DM). A Palm Warbler lingered at Bluegrass FWA., *Warrick*, IN through 6 Dec (SSo), while another at L. Monroe 3 Jan (RRp, ER) furnished Indiana's 4th Jan report. Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered in reduced numbers; Illinois's peak tally was just 12 in *Carroll* 18 Dec (KJM, LB). The lone Spotted Towhee reported was in *Massac*, IL 31 Dec (KJM). The 1188 American Tree Sparrows in *Greene*, primarily at Goose Pond 3 Feb (LWS), provided Indiana's 2nd highest tally ever. It was a good winter for Chipping Sparrows, with

singles at six different locations in Dec, and 2 visited a Vincennes, IN feeder 12 Feb (G&LB). A Clay-colored Sparrow at a feeder in e. *Warren* 21–28 Jan (S&TU) furnished Indiana's 2nd winter report. A Vesper Sparrow in *Newton*, IN 5 Jan (JKC, KJB) was rare for that month. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were at Arklands 27 Dec (DMK), with another at Lenzburg, IL 12 Jan (TJD). The lone Lincoln's Sparrow report came from *Rock Island*, IL 20 Dec (KJM). A Harris's Sparrow was present at Carlyle L. 8–22 Dec (DMK, KAM, TAM, m.ob.), and an imm. was at La Moille, IL 12 Feb (MAM). White-crowned Sparrows were less numerous than usual. A Fox Sparrow of one of the w. taxa visited Chesterton 7–8 Dec (†KJB, JKC, DG, JJM, LP). Among six triple-digit tallies of Lapland Longspur were 867 in *Boone*, IN 1 Jan (RLH). Large tallies of Snow Buntings included 700 in *Allen*, IN 19 Dec (JAH) and 1000 in *Ogle* and *Stephenson*, IL 20 Jan (DTW, BCW).

A lingering Indigo Bunting at Kankakee FWA., *Starke* 19 Dec (ph. JCK) provided Indiana's 7th Dec report. An excellent count of 20 Western Meadowlarks came from Carlyle L. 24 Feb (DMK). The 72 Eastern Meadowlarks at Goose Pond 3 Feb, with many in song, established Indiana's 3rd highest winter tally. Notable icterid counts included 840 Rusty Blackbirds at Mermert L., IL 31 Dec (KJM) and 300 Brewer's Blackbirds at Carlyle L. 1 Dec (DMK). Among five reports of Brewer's Blackbirds in Indiana, 28 at Hawthorn 2 Feb (J&SH, BJG, JKC et al.) provided the state's 2nd highest winter tally. Finches staged a strong invasion this season. Purple Finches were abundant and widespread; large counts included 145 in *Mercer*, IL 21 Dec (KJM, TM) and 58 in *Monroe*, IN 1 Feb (SRE). Seven Red Crossbills were noted in *Boone*, IL 4–6 Dec (Arlene Brei), up to 7 others were at Illinois Beach 1–21 Jan (GAW, EWW), up to 37 spent most of the season at Sand Ridge S.F., *Mason*, IL (AF, PF), and one was southerly in *Washington*, IL 20–21 Jan (MS, DMK, KAM). Indiana reports of Red Crossbills included 16 at Greene–Sullivan S.F., *Sullivan* 19 Dec (JG, RAB, JR) and one at Tremont, *Porter* 31 Dec (RJP). Numbers of Common Redpolls in Indiana have never been larger during Dec than this season; numbers usually peak in Feb or Mar. The state's maximum count was 116 at Westville, *LaPorte* 22 Dec (PK), while high counts in Illinois were 150 or more at Binnie Forest Preserve, *Kane*, IL 25 Jan (JD) and 25 at Chicago Botanic Gardens 26 Jan (KAM, MS, DBJ et al.). Single Hoary Redpolls at Chicago Botanic Gardens 20–28 Jan (ph. GN, RSh, m.ob.) and Calumet Park, IL early Feb+ (MG) furnished the 5th and 6th reports for Illinois, while one at Dunes 5–6 Dec

(BJG, PBG, m.ob.) was rare in Indiana. It was a fine winter for Pine Siskins, with peak totals of 114 in *Brown* 1 Dec (J&SH) and 89 at *Ottawa*, IL 2 Dec (C&JM). The lone Evening Grosbeak report was one at Binnie Forest Preserve, *Kane*, IL 26 Jan (JD).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger, Alan Anderson, David Ayer, Susan R. Bagby (SRB), Vonna Bley, Linda Boardsen, Gary & Lisa Bowman (G&LB), Ross A. Brittain, **Kenneth J. Brock** (Indiana), Michael R. Brown, Karl Brugger, Brad Bumgardner, Sam B. Burckhardt (SBB), William H. Buskirk, Marilyn F. Campbell, James Carpenter, John K. Cassady (JKC), John S. Castrale (JSC), Jeff D. Chapman (JDC), James Cole, Ronald Crawford, Evan Dalton, Tim J. Dever, Jon Duerr, Mary Jane Easterday, Scott R. Evans, Brad Feaster, Pete Fenner, Matt Fraker, Anthony Friend, Christian Freitag, Don Gorney, Michael Graff, Brendan J. Grube, Peter B. Grube, Bryan Guarente, Jess Gwinn, C. Leroy Harrison, James A. Haw, Roger L. Hedge, James D. & Susan Hengeveld, Lynea S. Hinchman (LSH), Frank R. Holmes, Larry L. Hood (LLH), Edward M. Hopkins, Robert D. Hughes (RDH), Robert Huguenard, Cathie Hutcheson, David B. Johnson, Marty Jones, Dan M. Kassebaum, John C. Kendall, Patrick Krueger, Tim Kuesel, Dave Lambeth, Greg Lambeth, John Lawrence, Becky Lomax-Sumner, J. Longhenry (JLh), Michael A. Madsen, Travis A. Mahan (TAM), Carolyn A. Marsh (CAM), Jeffrey J. McCoy, Kelly J. McKay (Illinois), Cindy & John McKee (C&JM), Keith A. McMullen, Don Miller (DMi), Elaine Miller, Fred Miller, Merlin Miller, Perry Miller, Robert W. Motz, Don Mullison, Luis G. Munoz, Tim Murphy, Greg Neise, Randy J. Pals, Steve A. Pancol, Bill Pannell, Larry Peavler, Michael L. Retter, Jeff Riegel, Eric Ripma, Rob Ripma (RRp), Rhonda Rothrock, Sandy Schacht, Mark Seiffert, Leland Shaum, Robert E. Shelby (RES), Randy Shonkweiler (RSh), Ryan Smith, Sharon Sorenson (SSo), Lee W. Sterrenburg, Douglas F. Stotz, Dan Stoltzfus, Jim Sullivan, Craig Taylor, Michael Thelen (MTh), Michael Topp, Susan & Ted Ulrich, Eric W. Walters, Dave Weichers (DWe), Donald R. Whitehead, Barbara C. Williams, Daniel T. Williams (DTW), Donald Williams, Christine L. Williamson, Geoffrey A. Williamson. ☼

James D. Hengeveld, 6354 Southshore Drive Unionville, Indiana 47468, (jhengeve@indiana.edu)

Keith A. McMullen, 1405 DeSoto, O'Fallon Illinois 62269, (warbler7@sbcglobal.net)

Geoffrey A. Williamson, 4046 N. Clark Street, Unit K Chicago, Illinois 60613 (geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net)



Adam M. Byrne

The Region experienced the snowiest winter in years, with portions of southern Michigan and Wisconsin reporting record snowfall totals, while those in Minnesota during December were the highest since 1996. Following a very snowy December, Wisconsin started January with relatively warm temperatures and unusual thunderstorms and tornados on 7 January, before returning to heavy snowfall. The heavy snowfall, cold temperatures, and poor cone and berry crops caused observers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to call this the most birdless winter in many years. Rare rarities once again topped the list of Regional rarities. Minnesota reported single Ross's Gulls and Ivory Gulls, as well as a Slaty-backed Gull that spent most of its time at a nearby Wisconsin landfill. American Three-toed Woodpeckers were present in good numbers in Minnesota, likely carryovers from the irruption that began during fall 2006; there was also one in Michigan. Other highlights included an Inca Dove in Minnesota and a possible Audubon's Warbler in Michigan.

WATERFOWL

Reports of Greater White-fronted Goose were one that wintered in *Dane*, WI (AP), singles in Michigan in *Allegan* 27 Dec (RA, m.ob.) and *Ingham* 1-3 Jan (*sic* DMW), 7 in *Sanilac* 18 Jan (DF, REF), and 12 in *Berrien* 29 Feb (AM, AV). A Ross's Goose in *Wayne*, MI lingered through 4 Dec (WP), while another was in *Meeker*, WI 1 Dec (DMF). Numerous Cackling Geese were in Michigan and Minnesota in Dec and a few in Jan, and the first spring migrants appeared in *Dane*, WI 16 Feb (MMD). The largest Trumpeter Swan congregations away from Minnesota were 275 in *St. Croix*, WI 1 Jan (LP) and 65 in *Iosco*, MI 14 Dec (BB, WWS). Rare during winter were single Blue-winged Teal in Michigan, a female in *Berrien* 10 Dec (MH) and a male in *Kalamazoo* 29 Dec (SR). The Region's only eider was an unidentified female in *Milwaukee*, WI 5 Jan (DG). A wintering male Harlequin Duck frequented the Mississippi R. in *Dakota* and *Washington*, MN 16 Dec+ (m.ob.) and *Pierce*, WI (DK); this

bird was joined by another male on the Minnesota side 22 Dec (SBM). Other Harlequins in Wisconsin were one that wintered in *Sheboygan* (QY) and one in *Kewaunee* 22 Dec (PS), while the only Harlequin in Michigan was in *Alpena* 10 Feb+ (BG, m.ob.).

The latest of several Surf Scoters in Wisconsin was in *Milwaukee* 27 Jan (DJ), while Surfs in Michigan lingered in *Hillsdale* through 19 Dec (one; JR) and *Bay 2 Dec* (2; SM, JS). A White-winged Scoter in *Dakota* 12-13 Jan (BAF, PEB) was a rare find for se. Minnesota away from L. Superior; good numbers of White-wingeds were reported in Michigan and Wisconsin. More than 36 Black Scoters in Michigan were scattered along L. Michigan and L. Huron shores, while 3 other Blacks were in *Milwaukee*, WI 27 Dec (AS). A Long-tailed Duck in *Dakota* 3 Dec (JPM) was the only report in Minnesota away from the n. shore of L. Superior, where numbers were below average. The largest flocks of Long-taileds were 12,050 off *Muskegon S.P.*, *Muskegon*, MI 5 Jan (RP, m.ob.) and 2024 in *Sheboygan*, WI 30 Dec (CS). Barrow's Goldeneyes lingered in Wisconsin in *Milwaukee* (JH), *Pierce* (DK), and *Sheboygan* 9 Feb (QY). In Minnesota, an ad. male

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Gray Partridges are increasingly hard to find in Wisconsin, with the only reports from *Kewaunee* 18 Jan (PS) and *Brown* 16 Feb (WM). A record count of 120 Sharp-tailed Grouse came from *Marshall*, MN 24 Feb, with 35 other birds in small groups nearby (JM, SAS). *Sheboygan*, WI hosted a Pacific Loon 1 Dec (DT, p.a.) and a Red-throated Loon 16 Jan (DJ). Red-throateds were in five Michigan counties, including an impressive 27 loons at the *Kalamazoo R. mouth*, *Allegan* 10 Dec (RB). A Pacific Loon at *Portage L.*, *Washtenaw*, MI 25 Dec-2 Jan (MJ, m.ob.) furnished a county first. One each Red-necked Grebe and Western Grebe were at the same locale in *Walworth*, WI 1-13 Jan (WR). Rare in Michigan were a Western/Clark's Grebe in *Baraga* 10 Dec (JY) and an imm. Northern Gannet in *Wayne* through 1 Dec (RE). Great Egrets lingered in three Michigan counties, and a large winter count of 38 Black-crowned Night-Herons was in *Wayne*, MI 7 Jan (WP). A Glossy Ibis photographed in *Dodge* 12 Dec (JB) provided the first winter record for Wisconsin. Considering the harsh winter conditions, a group of 62 Turkey Vultures in *Wash-*



Furnishing Minnesota's eleventh state record, but the first since December 1991, was this first-cycle Ivory Gull at Canal Park, Duluth 7 January 2008. It remained in the area for just over two hours before taking flight, circling high overhead, and disappearing to the west. Digiscoped image by Peder H. Svingen.

Barrow's on the Mississippi R., *Dakota* 16 Dec (BAF) was joined by a 2nd male 17 Dec (PEB); one remained through 13 Jan and moved upstream into *Washington*. One of these birds likely stopped in *Goodhue* 5 Jan, and 2 Barrow's at L. Pepin, *Wabasha* 2 Feb-4 Mar (BAF, m.ob.) may also have referred to these individuals. Perhaps the first for Minnesota was a presumed Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid in *Washington* 1 Jan (JPM).

tenaw, MI 12 Jan (RK) was exceptional; other vultures in *Cottonwood*, MN 2 Dec (BrB) and *Ozaukee*, WI 3 Dec (TU) represented the latest departing birds in those states. In addition to birds present in the normal wintering areas, Golden Eagles were noted in seven counties in Minnesota, 10 in Wisconsin, and five in Michigan. The only Gyrfalcons were in Michigan, an ad. in *Marquette* 7 Dec-20 Feb (SH, LJD, m.ob.) and another in *Wayne* 21

Feb (RGS). Single Virginia Rails were found in *Columbia*, WI 29 Dec (QY), *Livingston*, MI 2 Jan (SB), and *Washtenaw*, MI 5 Feb (DSJ). Two Sandhill Cranes in *Delta*, MI 13 Feb (DM) were very rare in the Upper Peninsula. Several shorebirds lingered in *Racine*, WI: a Spotted Sandpiper 15 Dec (RF), a Dunlin through 23 Dec (JD), and a Purple through 31 Dec (RF). Four other Purples were in Michigan, in *Muskegon* 1 Dec (BJ, LU, CF), *Allegan* 10 Dec and 2 Jan (RB), *Iosco* 12 Dec (BBo), and *Ottawa* 2 Feb (PB, PV). Also in Michigan were a Dunlin in *Monroe* 1 Dec (JSJ) and Wilson's Snipe in four counties.

Good numbers of Thayer's and Iceland Gulls continued in Michigan. In Wisconsin, 12 Thayer's Gulls were found in nearly every county along L. Michigan, and Iceland Gulls enlivened *Douglas* 21 Dec+ (PHS) and *Milwaukee* 5 Jan–3 Feb (TP). Three Iceland Gulls were noted in Minnesota: a near-ad. at Black Dog L., *Dakota* 29 Nov and 8 Dec (PEB, BAF); a first-cycle bird at Duluth, *St. Louis* 13 Jan (PHS) that was probably the same individual reported in *Douglas*, WI; and a third-cycle at Duluth 27 Jan (KRE, LS). There were eight reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in seven counties in Wisconsin, and 19+ birds in seven counties in Michigan. An ad. Slaty-backed Gull found at Superior Landfill, *Douglas*, WI 21 Dec (KJB) and late Jan–8 Feb (m.ob.) was likely the same bird at Duluth mid- & 27 Jan (JWL, PHS). Another Slaty-backed Gull was photographed in *Racine*, WI 23 Dec (EK). Glaucous Gulls were reported in good numbers in all three states; most noteworthy were 18 at Duluth 12 Jan (PHS). Great Black-backed Gulls were found in 10 Wisconsin counties, including a second-cycle bird that wintered in the Duluth, MN/Superior Landfill, WI area (KRE, PHS). The only Black-legged Kittiwakes reported were an imm. in *Huron* 9 Dec (SG, JSo, m.ob.), one found dead in *Berrien* in late Dec (fide MMA), and a second-cycle bird in *Bay* 21–23 Jan (JS, MW). An ad. Ross's Gull found on the Mississippi R., *Dakota* 15 Dec (BAF) was also observed in *Ramsey* and *Washington* (m.ob.), providing all three counties with their first reports and Minnesota with its 3rd overall! Also in Minnesota, a first-cycle Ivory Gull spent a few hours at Duluth 7 Jan (PHS, m.ob.). A Forster's Tern tarried in *Monroe*, MI 15 Dec (JSJ).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

High counts of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Minnesota—the Region's stronghold—were 34 in *Brown* 2 Dec (BTS) and 25 in *Sibley* 29 Feb (DB, RMD). Only three reports of collared-doves came from *Milwaukee*, WI, and birds continued in *Grand Traverse*, MI. Wis-

consin's continuing White-winged Dove was last seen in *Door* 9 Dec (DS), while Minnesota's Inca Dove remained in *Lake* through 5 Dec (JWL). Numbers of Snowy Owls and Northern Hawk Owls in Minnesota were below average, only 7 Snowy Owls were in Wisconsin, and no hawk owls were found in Michigan and Wisconsin. Great Gray Owls were also scarce Regionwide, with reports in only four Minnesota counties through mid-Jan, singles in Michigan in *Chippewa* 9–25 Feb (JN, SB) and *Arenac* and *Iosco* 27–28 Feb (BF), and one in Wisconsin in *Iron* 18 Dec (BBa). The Region's only Boreal Owls were one in *Bayfield*, WI 9 Feb (RyB) and 2 calling in *Cook*, MN 17 Feb (fide JWL). Two Rufous Hummingbirds lingered in Michigan, a hatch-year female in *Van Buren* through 5 Dec (DSK, JSK, LR, ATC) and a hatch-year male in *Kalamazoo* through 22 Dec (MP, MWA, ATC). An unidentified *Selasphorus* tarried in *Eau Claire*, WI through 5 Dec (SBe). Minnesota tallied an exceptional number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, including a rather northerly bird in *Pennington* 15 Dec–1 Jan (JM, SAS). Good numbers of American Three-toed Woodpeckers were in Minnesota, with reports in seven counties; another was at Isle Royale N.P., *Keweenaw*, MI 24 Jan (AE). Black-backed Woodpeckers were also present in good numbers Regionwide, highlighted by an amazing 33 working a burn in *Baraga*, MI 27 Jan (JY). Eastern Phoebe in *Washtenaw*, MI 28 Jan (MMG) and *Ingham*, MI 14 Feb (RFB) were remarkably hardy, considering the season. Wisconsin birders experienced one of the best Northern Shrike invasions in memory, with reports in 42 counties and a high of 7 in *Jackson* 26 Dec (TP). A lone Tufted Titmouse in *Martin* 9 Feb (fide AXH) was outside its typical range in se. Minnesota.

The only Mountain Bluebird reported was a female at Grand Marais, *Cook*, MN 18 Dec (fide JWL). All three states reported good numbers of Townsend Solitaires; singles in *Cass* 15 Dec and *Ottawa* 10 Jan+ were rare in s. Michigan. Varied Thrushes were quite scarce in Minnesota, with reports in only five counties. Single Varieds in six Wisconsin counties and 8 in seven Michigan counties were above average. Gray Catbirds lingered in Michigan in *Berrien* 16 Dec (MH), *Washtenaw* 2 Feb (LF), and *Wayne* 16 Feb (GN, m.ob.). Single Northern Mockingbirds graced *St. Louis*, MN 27 Feb (DE) and *Racine*, WI 9 Feb (JDB). The only Brown Thrashers reported were singles in Michigan in *Jackson* through 1 Jan (DFr), *Wayne* 1 Jan (ATC), *Kalamazoo* 4 Jan (RKe), and *Washtenaw* 24 Jan+ (JBr). American Pipits in Michigan tarried in *Livingston* through 2 Dec (RW) and *Berrien*

through 8 Dec (JTW, PU), while another remained in *Racine*, WI through 22 Dec (EH). Bohemian Waxwings made an impressive movement into s. Michigan. Excellent waxwing numbers were also reported in n. Wisconsin, and high counts in Minnesota included 614 in *Lake* (JWL) and 400 each in *St. Louis* and *Cook*. Several rare warblers were found in Michigan, including an unidentified parula in *Iosco* 15 Dec (CG) and a Yellow-rumped Warbler showing some characteristics of Audubon's Warbler that wintered in *Kent* (BT, AMB, CP, CD). Single Yellow-rumps in Wisconsin were in *Ozaukee* 15 Dec (JF), *Manitowoc* 3 Feb (MO), and *Kenosha* all season (JJ). Other warblers in Michigan were a Yellow-throated in *Kalamazoo* through 4 Dec (TH), Pines in *Newaygo* through 16 Feb (BBo, DBo) and *Kent* through 10 Feb (TW), a Palm in *Macomb* 17 Dec (CM), and a Common Yellowthroat in *Monroe* 22 Dec.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A hardy Scarlet Tanager lingered in *Wayne*, MI 20 Dec (PC). Also in Michigan was a Spotted Towhee in *Berrien* 1–8 Feb (JLT, JTW, KM, m.ob.). Single Chipping Sparrows were in *Grant*, WI 18 Dec (JRo) and *Mower*, MN 31 Jan (CMe), while 4 were found in three Michigan counties. A Savannah Sparrow in *McLeod*, WI 9 Dec was late (JCC), while other singles were notable in *Racine*, WI 19 Dec (EH) and *Monroe*, MI 22 Dec (KO, m.ob.) and 14 Feb (WP). Michigan birders have come to expect a Lincoln's Sparrow to linger in the Detroit area, but this winter's multiple reports were exceptional—singles in *Detroit*, *Wayne* 29 Dec (KO), *Oakland* 1 Jan (NMB), and *Elizabeth Park*, *Wayne* 16 Jan (WP), and up to 2 at Lake Erie Metropark, *Wayne* 21 Feb+ (WP). Wisconsin hosted the Region's only Harris's Sparrow in *Ozaukee* 15 Dec (JF). White-crowned Sparrows are casual winter visitors in Minnesota, so 2 that wintered at a feeder in *Dakota* (BS) and singles in *Meeker* 24–25 Dec (TN) and *Rice* 28 Feb (TFB) were noteworthy. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak wintered at a feeder in *Iron*, WI (RyB), while grosbeaks in Michigan were in *Bay* 5–8 Dec (RD, DoJ) and *Manistee* 19 Jan–15 Feb (JE). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder at Minneapolis, *Hennepin* 31 Dec (SMo). Unusual was a Rusty Blackbird in *Bayfield*, WI 16 Dec (NA); one in *Waukesha* 30 Dec (AS) was more expected. Rusties in Michigan included 18 in *Monroe* 22 Dec, one in *Hillsdale* 24 Jan (JR), and 5 in *Charlevoix* 10 Feb (MaM). Also in Michigan were 2 Brewer's Blackbirds in *Monroe* 22 Dec (KO), another in *Wayne* 30 Dec (WP), and a Baltimore Oriole in *Oakland* 10 Dec–9 Feb (EL).

Other than a push of redpolls, winter finches showed rather poorly. Pine Grosbeaks were reported in good numbers in n. Wisconsin, with a high count of 100 in *Oneida* 1 Dec (NR), and in Michigan southward into the n. peninsula. Red Crossbills were reported in eight counties in n. Minnesota, including 43 in *Pine* (MCA) and 13 in *Lac Qui Parle* (BJU). White-winged Crossbills showed a similar distribution in six counties in n. Minnesota, with one bird s. to *Swift* (BJU). Red Crossbills in Michigan irrupted to only three Upper Peninsula counties, and the state's sole White-winged Crossbill was in *Alger* 16 Dec. Common Redpolls irrupted into the Region in large numbers, bringing with them good numbers of Hoary Redpolls. Hoaries were found in six counties in Minnesota, including 3 reliable birds in *St. Louis*, while singles in Wisconsin were in *Ashland* 15 Dec (NA), *Ozaukee* 1 Jan+ (SC), and *Florence* 15 Jan (KK). Among several reports in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were impressive counts of 8 Hoaries in *Dickinson* 15 Dec (EJO, GRO) and 6 in *Marquette* 10 Dec (SH), while the Lower Peninsula hosted one in *Kent* 6 Dec (SF), singles at different sites in *Berrien* 21 (EM) & 26 Dec (MMA) and 2 there 15 Jan (WEJ), one in *Wayne* 28 Dec (JAC, DOB), a first county report in *Washtenaw* 30 Dec–2 Jan (ATC, KS), one in *Ingham* 17–18 Jan (TRW), and one in *Kalamazoo* 1 Feb (WW). Evening Grosbeak numbers remained low Regionwide, with high counts of 100 in *Iosco*, MI 3 Dec–24 Feb

(WWS), 80 in *Florence*, WI 18 Dec (KK), and 70 in *Clearwater*, MN.

Corrigendum: The Pine Warbler reported in Wisconsin during winter 2006–2007 was in *Winnebago*, not *Outagamie*.

Contributors (subregional editors bold-faced): Raymond Adams, Mark C. Alt, Nick Anich, Sean Bachman (SeB), Bruce Bacon (BBa), Jeff Bahls, Steve Baker, Karl J. Bardon, Bob Bell, Dedrick Benz, Steve Betchkal (SBe), Tom F. Boevers, Brad Bolduan (BrB), Belva Bouwsma (BBo), David Bouwsma (DBo), Ryan Brady (RyB), Peter Braswell, Rick Brigham, Jim Brosnan (JBr), Nancy M. Brown, Richard F. Brown, Jr. (RFB), Paul E. Budde, Adam M. Byrne, Allen T. Chartier, Joel C. Claus, Julie A. Craves, Seth Cutright, Paul Cypher, Jerry DeBoer (JDB), John Dixon, Louis J. Dombroski, Robert M. Dunlap, Curtis Dykstra, Ryan Dziedzic, Kim R. Eckert, Dudley Edmundson, Alexander Egan, Robert Epstein, John Ester, Bruce A. Fall, Rick Fare, Denise Fearnow, Randall E. Fearnow, Sean Fitzgerald, Dan M. Floren, Laurent Fournier, Brad Fox, Chip Francke, Jim Frank, Darlene Friedman (DFr), Steve Gasser, Bill Grigg, Dennis Gustafson, Skye Haas, Anthony X. Hertz, Randy Hoffman, Tom Houghtaling, Eric Howe, Judith Huf, Matt Hysell, Joe Jaccayna, Dan Jackson, Doug Jackson (DoJ), Maggie Jewett, Brian Johnson, Wendy E. Jones, Jeanie M. Joppru, Jerome S. Jourdan,

Kay Kavanagh, Edward Keyel, Douglas Kieser, Richard Keith (RKe), Roger Kuhlman, Ed Lewandoski, James W. Lind, Stan Madziar, Mike Mahler (MMA), Carl Manning, James P. Mattsson, Matt McDonald (MaM), Mike McDowell (MMD), Michael McGraw (MMG), Doug McWhirter (DMW), Elizabeth Meister, Chuck Meyer (CMe), Scott B. Meyer, Dee Miller, Kip Miller, Andre Moncrieff, Steve Morrison (SMo), William Mueller, Joe Nault, Theresa Nelson, Greg Norwood, Darrin O'Brien, Evelyn J. Olson, Gary R. Olson, Karl Overman, Mary Ozarowicz, Andy Paulios, Walter Pawloski, Ric Pedler, Melanie Perry, Larry Persico, Tom Prestby, Caleb Putnam, Sarah Reding, Jack Reinoehl, Nancy Richmond, Lu Robertson, Wayne Rohde, John Romano (JRo), Blaine Secliger, Wayne W. Shawl, Paul Schlike, Kevin Sharp, Dean Shumway, Dan Skarrit (DSk), Jackie Skarrit (JSk), Brian T. Smith, Joe Soehnel, Jeff Sommer (JSO), Charles Sontag, Dan Sparks-Jackson (DSJ), Linda Sparling, Shelley A. Steva, Peder H. Svingen, Andrea Szymczak, Bob Tarte, Daryl Tessen, John L. Trapp, Pat Underwood, Bill J. Unzen, Lena Usyk, Tom Uttech, Alison Village, Phil Vreeman, Molly Wagner (MWA), Warren Whaley, Thomas R. Wheeler, Ted White, Myles Willard, Richard Wolinski, Jonathon T. Wuepper, Quentin Yoerger, Joseph Youngman. ☺

Adam M. Byrne, 11771 Rachel Lane
DeWitt, Michigan 48820, (byrne@msu.edu)

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Iowa & Missouri



Robert Cecil

It was one of the nastiest winters in years in Iowa and northern Missouri, and there was no respite except for a brief period in early January. Snow, usually overlying ice, was the rule in the Region, and temperatures were described as "bone-chilling" in Missouri. Iowa recorded its second-highest season for precipitation in 136 years. January and February brought almost weekly snow or ice somewhere, often heavy, especially during February. Waterfowl, sparrows, and icterids largely evacuated the Region in December. Northern Shrikes and Snow Buntings abounded, and winter finches were below expectations. Raptors and woodland birds were scarce in central and southern Missouri, while sparrows were more abundant. This is my final report as Regional Editor. The new winter-season editor will be Aaron Brees of Des Moines. Tommie Rogers, who compiles records for Missouri, will be replaced by Joe Eades. My thanks to Tommie for all the able assistance over the years.

Abbreviations: Riverlands (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Squaw Creek (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Peak concentrations of waterfowl were at the usual locations: 50,000 Snow Geese wintered at Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO, with 200,000 migrants there 16 Feb (SK); 3300 Common Goldeneyes at Pool 19, Lee, IA (SJD); and 4800 Common Mergansers at Saylorville Res., IA 3 Dec (AB). The usual thousands of Canvasbacks at Pool 19 arrived and departed depending upon ice conditions (SJD, JG, m.ob.). That the peak count of Canvasbacks in Missouri was of 286 at Riverlands 6 Dec (JE) begs the question of where all of

those Canvasbacks go when they are not in Iowa. Sea ducks made a paltry showing in Iowa and were not reported from Missouri: scoters included a single Surf at Red Rock Res. 8 Dec (AB); single White-winged at Red Rock Res. 27 Dec (AB) and in Scott 22 Dec-4 Feb (DR); and a Black at Saylorville Res. 2 Dec (SJD). There were five reports of single Long-tailed Ducks. Greater Scaup at Pool 19 again outnumbered Lessers about 600 to 300 (SJD). Other waterfowl were present in normal numbers throughout the Region. Gray Partridges were reported in their typically low numbers in n.-cen. Iowa, despite the almost continuous snow cover. Greater Prairie-Chickens were found at their usual Missouri locations: 10 at Prairie S.P., Barton 20 Dec (MR) and 19 at Dunn Ranch, Harrison 24 Feb (KM, DW).

The only grebes reported were single Pied-billed at three sites in Missouri, with the latest lingering at Smithville L., Kansas City through 5 Jan (KM), and 2 Horneds at Riverlands 12-16 Dec (JE). Completely unexpected was a Brown Pelican at Fort Madison, Lee, IA 18-19 Dec (†SJD, †JLF). A few Double-crested Cormorants remained in Iowa, including singles at Des Moines 20-28 Jan (AB, RA, PA) and Davenport Jan-Feb (DR, WMZ); migrants arrived in small numbers during late Feb. Great Blue Herons were reported in usual numbers around open water, but no Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered at Cedar Rapids.

Missouri hosted the only vultures, one Turkey Vulture at Riverlands 31 Jan (JE) and 40 Black Vultures in Taney 15 Feb (SK). Bald Eagles staged a remarkable concentration of 1200 at Pool 19 on 12 Jan (JG, SJD). With 50 reports, Cooper's Hawks in Iowa outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks 2:1 again this year. Northern Goshawks were confined to Iowa, with 8 singles. There were six reports of Red-shouldered Hawks in Iowa, a number similar to previous years. Rough-legged Hawks were unusually numerous in Iowa, while the Region's most southerly report was of one in Pike, MO 4 Jan (SS). Six Golden Eagles were at five sites in Iowa, including 2 in O'Brien 1 Feb (DTh). No Goldeneyes were reported in Allamakee, IA, a traditional wintering area. It was an excellent season for Merlins, with 17 reports in Iowa and seven in Missouri, among these 3 at Taborville Prairie, St. Clair 20 Dec (MR) and only 2 at the roost at Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines (JG, RC). Peregrine Falcons were reported at two sites in the St. Louis area and at Squaw Creek 23 Jan (LL); the only one in Iowa other than the singles or duos that usually winter at Davenport and Cedar Rapids were singles a few

miles apart in Lee 12 (JR) & 18 Dec (SJD). Prairie Falcons made a decent showing in Missouri: one wintered near St. Joseph (LL); other singles were in Barton 23 Dec (JN, MD) and St. Charles 1 Jan (JU); and duos graced Taborville Prairie, St. Clair 20 Dec (MR) and Dunn Ranch, Hamilton 24 Feb (KM, DW). There were five single Prairies in Iowa: in Polk 2 Dec (AB, JS), Sioux 15 Jan (JVD), O'Brien 1 Feb (DTh), at Plymouth (JVD) 13 Feb, and one that preyed on European Starlings at a feedlot in Dallas 1 Feb+ (RA, PA, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Iowa's first wintering Virginia Rail in several years and about its 7th overall was on the Des Moines C.B.C. 22 Dec (†SJD); another Virginia and a Sora were on the Columbia, MO C.B.C. (PM). A few American Coots lingered in Iowa's few areas of open water such as artificially heated Cedar L., Cedar Rapids (BS, DP), and fewer than 50 wintered on open water in Missouri. Oddly, a Sandhill Crane wintered at Ames, IA (LD, WO, m.ob.), and 2 others wintered at Squaw Creek (FD, LG, m.ob.). Returning Greater Yellowlegs were 8 in Dunklin, MO 23 Feb (CB) and 4 in Stoddard, MO 29 Feb (CB). Eleven Least Sandpipers were at Lock and Dam 25, Lincoln, MO 5 Dec (DR), with 3 lingering until 4 Jan (SS); another Least was in Stoddard, MO 16 Feb (BL).

Iowa's 2nd C.B.C. report of Dunlin came from Keokuk (*SD, RC). An alternate-plumaged ad. Franklin's Gull enlivened Lewis and Clark S.P., Buchanan, MO 29 Feb (LL), and a Little Gull was at Thomas Hill Res., Randolph, MO 30 Dec (†JE). Bonaparte's Gulls wintered in Missouri in small numbers in Monroe, Randolph, Clay, Dunklin, and Henry. A Mew Gull lingered at Red Rock Res. through 2 Dec (†AB). Iowa's much-heralded Black-tailed Gull remained at Saylorville Res. through 6 Dec (†SJD, †AB). A Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull was reported at Lock and Dam 14, Scott, IA 24 Feb (SF). A Thayer's Gull at Riverlands 13 Dec and 6 Jan (JE, SS) provided the sole Missouri report, but Thayer's were widespread in Iowa: at least 9 wintered in Scott (SF); there were 4 each at Saylorville Res. 6 Dec (AB, SJD), Des Moines 8 Dec (NMI, JG), and Red Rock Res. 15-24 Dec (SJD), and three other reports. Single Iceland Gulls were in Iowa at Des Moines 6-8 Dec (†JB, †AB, †JG), Red Rock Res. 15-25 Dec (AB, †SJD), Pool 19 on 12 Jan (†SJD, JG), and an additional report that has been referred to the B.R.C. Another Iceland was at Riverlands 6 Jan (SS). At least 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered at Riverlands (m.ob.), while in e. Iowa, 6 wintered in Scott (SF), and singles

or duos were found at six other sites. One or 2 Glaucous Gulls made it s. to Riverlands during Dec (JE, JU), while 8 or more wintered in Iowa. Great Black-backed Gulls included one or 2 at Riverlands 15 Dec and 15 Jan (JE, PU) and singles at Lock and Dam 19 on 12 Jan (SJD) and Lock and Dam 15 on 25 Feb (DR, SF). Black-legged Kittiwake reports included a juv. at Red Rock Res. 8 Dec (†Paul Dunbar, †AB) and 160 km to the s. at Thomas Hill Res., Randolph, MO 30-31 Dec (†JE, SH).

Remarkable were the 133 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Monona, IA 24 Feb (SJD). The only Barn Owl report came from Mississippi, MO in Dec (TR), and the season's only Snowy Owl was one in Floyd, IA 21 Feb (PH). Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were reported in small numbers in Missouri, while both were well represented in Iowa, with 17 reports of each. The sole Northern Saw-whet Owl in Missouri was tallied on the Columbia C.B.C., while 13 reports were received from Iowa, including 3 in Black Hawk 13 Dec (TS) and 5 in Boone during Feb (SJD, WO). Red-headed Woodpeckers are local in Iowa, although 40 wintered in Decatur (NMI).

PASSERINES

Very unusual for Iowa were single Eastern Phoebe in Lee 18 Dec (SJD) and on the Eldora-Union C.B.C. Loggerhead Shrikes wintered in the usual small numbers in s. Iowa. Northern Shrikes appeared in excellent numbers, with 31 reports of one to 3 birds each in Iowa and 12 reports in Missouri, with birds s. to Barton 19 Dec and 20 Jan (MR, LH) and Stoddard 16 Jan (SH). A Blue-headed Vireo at

Mingo N.W.R., Stoddard, MO 17 Feb (†CB, JW) was unexpected, particularly in such a harsh winter season. Continuing the autumn flight, Red-breasted Nuthatches pushed through Iowa and into n. Missouri in Dec. A House Wren in Stoddard, MO 17 Feb (†CB, JW) was unusual. Other notable reports of wrens in Missouri were 8 Sedges at Prairie S.P. 20 Dec (MR) and a lone Marsh at Squaw Creek 18 Dec (TR). The season's only Townsend's Solitaire was in Lincoln, MO 22 Dec (†SS). A few reports came in of Hermit Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers in Iowa through mid-Jan. The only Bohemian Waxwings observed were one on the Burlington, IA C.B.C. and 2 in O'Brien 6-13 Jan (†DB, †LA). Six American Pipits in Stoddard 16 Feb (SD) may have been eager migrants, while an Orange-crowned Warbler there 2 Feb (JW, CB) was wintering.

A handful of Spotted Towhees wintered in both states. Highlights among other sparrows included lone Chippings in St. Charles, MO 5 Jan (†BR) and at Joplin, MO 17 Jan (†LH), a Clay-colored in Jefferson, MO 18 Feb (†WG), a Field in Scott, IA 2 Feb (†RCu), and Le Conte's in Lincoln, MO 24 Dec (one; SS) and Barton, MO 6 Jan (2; MD, JN). Three Oregon Juncos were in Iowa. Lapland Longspurs were reported in typical numbers. Snow Buntings were widespread in Iowa but only just penetrated into n. Missouri. Unusual was a Smith's Longspur in Barton, MO 23 Dec (MD, JN). A lone Rusty Blackbird lingered at Rathbun Res. 5 Jan (RC). Brewer's Blackbirds were absent from Iowa, but reports in Missouri included 100 in St. Clair 20 Dec and 85 in Barton 20

Dec (MR). Remarkable were 510 Great-tailed Grackles at a Des Moines roost 11 Feb (AB). A Baltimore Oriole at Vernon, MO 9 Dec (†Ron Thompson) was quite unusual. Purple Finches were well represented, with 100 at Union Ridge C.A., MO 21 Jan (PW) representing the highest count by far. Eleven Red Crossbills in Jefferson, MO during Feb provided a local delight (TR, m.ob.), while nine reports of singles were above average in Iowa. The Region's only White-winged Crossbill brightened Ames 10-21 Jan (WO, HW m.ob.). Common Redpolls were limited to n. Iowa, where 6 were reported. Pine Siskins were widespread in Iowa and a few made it s. in Missouri to Joplin.

Contributors cited: Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Chris Barrigar, Dick Bierman, Aaron Brees, Robert Cecil, Ray Cummins, Larry Dau, Steve Dilks, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Mary Doud, Frank Durbain, Joe Eades, Steve Freed, Leo Galloway, Jay Gilliam, Wally George, Sue Hasse, Lawrence Herbert, Paul Hertz, Susan Hazlewood, Steve Kinder, Larry Lade, Bob Lewis, Paul McKinsey, Kristi Mayo, Jeff Nichols, Nathan Miller, Wolf Oesterreich, Diane Pesek, Don Robinson, Mark Robbins, Tommie Rogers, Bill Rowe, John Rutenbeck, Bill Scheible, Tom Schilke, Lee Schoenewe, Scott Schuette, Jim Sinclair, Mark Thelen, Josh Uffman, John Van Dyk, Harley Winfrey, Doug Willis, Phil Wire, Jeff Wright, Walter Zurdeeg.

Robert Cecil, 1315 41st Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50311, (wewarb@aol.com)

Tennessee & Kentucky

Chris Sloan
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The winter of 2007-2008 was overall relatively normal regarding temperature and precipitation. Temperature was warmer than normal during December and slightly warmer than normal during January, although the lowest temperatures of the winter season (7° F and 11° F were recorded at Louisville and Nashville, respectively) occurred during the month. Temperature then returned to near normal to slightly colder than normal during February. Precipitation was higher than nor-

mal in December, slightly below normal during January, and near normal during February. There was little snowfall during the period, with essentially no extended periods of snow cover Regionwide. The most abnormal feature of the winter season was the number of severe storms; very strong winds were reported on three days in January and two days in February, with an especially damaging outbreak across western and central Kentucky February 5-6, when 29 tornadoes were reported in 23 counties.

Rarity highlights included Harlequin Duck, Northern Shrike, and several Black-capped Chickadees in Kentucky and a *Plegadis* ibis, Allen's Hummingbird, and Townsend's Solitaire in Tennessee. Natural and ornamental





Two different dark-morph Ross's Geese turned up at Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge, Lauderdale County, Tennessee during winter 2007-2008. The first was present 14-31 (here 17) December, possibly in the company of a third (immature) bird; a second adult was also present 30 December. Photographs by Mike Todd and Jeff R. Wilson.



food crops were in well below-average supply in most areas so it was not a good winter for berry, cone and mast eaters, although Red-headed Woodpeckers were present in good numbers in scattered locales. Despite a pronounced fall flight of some boreal species, winter numbers were below average, suggesting that scarce food supplies resulted in most birds heading farther south.

Abbreviations: Ballard W.M.A. (Ballard, KY); Hiwassee (Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Meigs, TN); Kentucky Dam (at the n. end of Kentucky L., Livingston/Marshall, KY); Long Pt. (Long Point Unit Reelfoot N.W.R., Fulton, KY); Pace Pt. (Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee NWR, Henry, TN); Robco L. (Robco L., Shelby, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

WATERFOWL

Across the Region, the less-common species of geese were reported in much higher-than-average numbers. Peak counts of Greater White-fronted Goose again set new records, with a new Kentucky high count of 35,498 surveyed at Long Pt. 11 Jan (GP); other notable counts were represented by 5580 at Ballard W.M.A. 20 Jan (CW), 5800 at Sauerheber 9 Jan (MMr), and 4500 at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 2 Feb (KM). Thirty Greater White-fronteds at Hiwassee 23 Jan (DA) represented a new high count for se. Tennessee. A remarkable 200 Cackling Geese were reported from an aerial survey of Tennessee N.W.R. 17 Dec (RW). Otherwise, one to 28 were reported at a dozen Kentucky and seven middle and w. Tennessee sites during the season. Nine Ross's Geese at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 24 Dec (E&HL) represented a new high for se. Tennessee. One ad. and a possible imm. dark-morph Ross's Goose were at Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge, Lauderdale, TN 14-31 Dec. (ph. MT, BF); another ad. was present 30 Dec (ph. JRW), and one was also reported at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood, TN 13 Feb (VBR). A Ross's Goose $\times$ Snow Goose hybrid was present in Todd, KY

17 Feb (DR). Snow Goose numbers peaked during Jan, when ca. 90,000 were counted at Long Pt. 11 Jan (GP) and 137,870 were estimated at Ballard W.M.A. 20 Jan (CW).

One to 10 Mute Swans were present at five Kentucky sites during the period. A flock returned to Bernheim Forest, Bullitt, KY again, apparently exhibiting winter site fidelity. The wintering flock of Tundra Swans at Sauerheber numbered at least 52 by 1 Dec (CC), with a peak count of 93—a new state high count—on 25 Jan (MMr). Other reports included 5-15 at additional sites in Henderson, KY during Dec and Jan (MMr), 4 in Blount, TN 7 Dec (S&GC), and 9 on Cave Run L., Rowan, KY 8 Dec (WM). Two unidentified swans found on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 8 Jan (ph. RD) and later refound at London, Laurel, KY 17 Jan into mid-Feb (WA, RHa et al.) were photographed; most consulted authorities considered them to be most likely Mute Swan $\times$ Trumpeter Swan hybrids. An attempt to capture the birds for DNA analysis was unsuccessful, but they were apparently present winter 2006-2007 as dusky imm. birds (ph. RHa), so it is hoped they will return in winter 2008-2009.

Dabbling duck numbers were unremarkable, other than tallies of Mallards in the w. portion of the Region from mid-Dec through mid-Jan. There were two reports of male Eurasian Wigeon or Eurasian Wigeon $\times$ American Wigeon hybrids in Kentucky: one at Sauerheber 10 Dec ($\dagger$ MMr) and another in a flooded field in the Ohio R. floodplain ne. of Siloam, Greenup 17 Dec ($\dagger$ JB). A male Mallard $\times$ Northern Pintail hybrid was present in Warren, KY 25-26 Dec (ph. DR, JR). There were three reports of Blue-winged Teal: 2 on Barren River L., KY 11 Dec (DR); 4 at the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., Benton, TN 17 Dec (RW); and one at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson, KY 23 & 27 Dec ($\dagger$ RG, MAu) and 17 Jan (MAu).

Diving duck numbers were also unremarkable during the winter season, with a few exceptions, including 382 Greater Scaup at Ensley 23 Jan (JRW); upwards of 10,000 Lesser

Scaup on Robco L. in mid-Dec (JRW, MT); 112 Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Cumberland, Russell, KY 14 Dec (RD), noteworthy for so late in the fall migratory season; and 521 Hooded Mergansers at Hiwassee 1 Jan, representing an all-time high for the local C.B.C.

A female Harlequin Duck on the Ohio R. at New Richmond, OH, seen swimming and flying out into Campbell, KY 26 Feb (DMo, FR, ph. BP, JCa) represented only a 2nd record for the Bluegrass state. One to 3 Surf Scoters were reported at four Kentucky and two Tennessee locales during Dec. One to 3 Black Scoters were seen at four Kentucky locales during early through mid-Dec (m.ob.), with an ad. male on the Ohio R., Lewis 23 Jan (JB). In Tennessee, an imm. was on the Mississippi R. near Mud L., Shelby 1 Dec (JRW, MT), an ad. female was at Ensley 1 Dec+ (JRW, MT), with another joining it 22 Dec+ (JRW), and an imm. female was at Pace Pt. 4 Dec (MT). A White-winged Scoter in Sullivan, TN 29 Jan (LM) was followed by a nice flurry of reports of White-wingeds during Feb, with one to 4 at three sites in Kentucky, including a county first at L. Herndon, Logan 3-18 Feb (MB, DR). All three scoter species (one of each species) were at Robco L. 15 Dec (JRW).

Long-tailed Ducks put in a good showing, with the following reports: one in Dekalb, TN 7 Dec (SJS) that was a county first; 2 males (one later shot) and a female on the Tennessee



After a few years of increased attention to the species, it appears that Cackling Goose is a normally occurring winter resident in the Tennessee & Kentucky region—especially the western half—from late November through early March. This one was photographed at Shelby Park, Davidson County, Tennessee on 8 February 2008. Photograph by Mark Hackney.

R. near Birchwood, Hamilton, TN 15 Dec (fide LL); a female at Booker T. Washington S.P., Hamilton, TN 17 Dec (RJH, DJ); 2 different birds on Kentucky L., above Kentucky Dam, Marshall, KY—a male 29 Dec (ph. BP) and a female/imm. 1 Jan (ph. AH); and a female on Robco L. 16 Feb+ (JRW). As is the norm, small numbers of Common Mergansers were reported in Kentucky during the season; 2 at

Cove L., *Campbell* 22–24 Feb (NM) were the only ones reported in Tennessee.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Rare loons were again relatively scarce this winter. Single juv. Red-throats were present on Barren River L., KY 10 Dec (AH), at Pace Pt. 17 Dec (MT), and on Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 29 Dec (ph. BP). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Meldahl Dam on the Ohio R., *Bracken*, KY 1 Dec (ph. BY, MY, BP), at Pace Pt. 4 Dec (ph. MT), and on Reelfoot L., *Obion*, TN 15 Dec (ph. MT, BF, JG). Two Red-neckeds were on the Mississippi R., Memphis, TN 2 Feb (JRW). Up to 3 Eared Grebes were present through the season at the Region's only regular winter site at S. Holston L., *Sullivan*, TN (RK, m.ob.).

An American Bittern, always rare in the Region in winter, was at Standifer Gap 15 Dec (†DPA). A Green Heron in Meigs, TN 17 Dec (AT) was a rare winter find. A tardy Great Egret was on Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 15 Dec (HC, ME). In Tennessee, Great Egrets were widely reported in numbers across the e. part of the state, with at least 36 individuals reported in five counties; the highest numbers were found in se. Tennessee, with 16 recorded on the Hiwassee C.B.C. 1 Jan (DA) and 12 on the Tennessee R., *Hamilton*, TN 21 Dec (RSh). A *Plegadis ibis* (reported as Glossy), rare in the Region any time of year but even more so in winter, was at Standifer Gap 11 Dec (†DPA).

Single Ospreys at Robco L. 1 Dec (JRW, MT) and at Cave Run L., *Rowan*, KY 5 Dec (BP) were tardy, and one along the Tennessee R., *Hamilton*, TN 26 Feb (HBI, DSh) was very early. Reports of w. forms of Red-tailed Hawk included a light-morph Harlan's Hawk that was seen for the 7th consecutive winter in s. *Warren* (DR). Again this winter, only small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were recorded at normal locales in Kentucky; only one—a dark morph in *Carroll* 5 Feb (MT)—was reported in Tennessee. An above-average number of Golden Eagles was reported; in Kentucky, reports included a juv. in *Madison* 1 Dec (SMr, JS); one in *Floyd* 9 Dec (CL, KE); one to 3 in the vicinity of Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson* during the period (m.ob.); a juv. at Kentucky L., *Marshall* in mid-Jan (PB); one at Taylorsville L., *Spencer* 12 Jan (TB, *fide* HBR); one in se. *Muhlenberg* 12 Jan (AH); and one near the *Boone/Gallatin* line 25 Jan (DR). In Tennessee, reports included 2 at Hiwassee 3 Dec (DA); one at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Benton* 17 Dec (RW); one in *Clay* (RD, ph. AM); an imm. in *Marion* 23 Jan (DC); and one to 2 at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry* 6 & 9 Feb (MT, TOS). It was yet another good season for apparently

wintering Merlins, with singles reported on 18 occasions in Kentucky and at three e. Tennessee locales 9 Dec–28 Feb. The only reports of Peregrine Falcons in Kentucky were of birds at known or likely nesting locales; in Tennessee, apart from known nesting areas, 9 were reported from eight locales.

A tally of 7 Virginia Rails at two sites in se. *Muhlenberg*, KY 30 Dec (BP) represented a new winter season high count in Kentucky. From one to 3 were at Standifer Gap through the season, and one at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, *Greene*, TN 8 Dec (DMi) represented a rare winter record for ne. Tennessee.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Counts of at least 1340 Killdeer at McElroy L., *Warren*, KY 31 Dec (DR) and 815 at Barren River L., *Allen*, KY 12 Jan (DR) were noteworthy, with the former representing a new high count for Kentucky. Single Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs in s. *Warren*, KY 18 (SK) & 23 Feb (DR), respectively, were the earliest to be reported. A Spotted Sandpiper on the Ohio R. at Dayton, *Campbell*, KY 31 Dec–1 Jan (†FR) represents one of only a few winter records for Kentucky. One was at Wood Res., *Franklin*, TN Dec–8 Jan (D&JS), and one wintered in Kingsport, TN (RK, m.ob.) for the 3rd consecutive year. A Western Sandpiper on Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 1 Jan (†BH) was the first reported in Kentucky in winter in several years. A few Least Sandpipers lingered at normal locales into late Dec, with a high of 105 at Upper Douglas L., *Jefferson*, TN (MS). A few Dunlins may have wintered at new locales in Kentucky, with small numbers lingering into mid-Jan at Sauerheber (CC et al.) and at Barren River L., *Allen*, KY (DR, AH). In Tennessee, 30 in *Bradley* 17 Dec (AT) and 10–58 at Upper Douglas L., *Jefferson* through the season (MS) were noteworthy counts.

The winter gull season was quite unremarkable, with only one unexpected rarity reported, a first-cycle California Gull at Paris Landing S.P., *Henry*, TN 4 Jan (†MT). The continuing drought in the southeastern states resulted in little flow through the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers systems, reducing the amount of gull activity at all normal hot spots below the major dams. Several patagial-tagged Ring-billed Gulls were reported in the Region during the fall and early winter period (m.ob.); these birds were tagged during early May 2007 on the L. Michigan shoreline at Chicago, IL (*fide* SB). The only reports of Thayer's Gull were single ads. at Kentucky Dam 4 Dec (HC) and on Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 15 Dec (HC). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on Kentucky L. and L. Barkley, KY during



A female Harlequin Duck was found on Ohio River at New Richmond, Ohio, 26 February 2008. It was seen a few times flying and swimming out over and into Campbell County, Kentucky, establishing a second state record. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

the period: a first-cycle bird was at Pace Pt. 17 Dec (ph. MT), and an ad. was at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN 10 Feb (MT). As is the norm, small numbers of Forster's Terns were seen sporadically on Kentucky L., *Calhoun/Marshall*, KY during the period (HC et al.); 5 at Robco L. 16 Feb (JRW) may have been early spring migrants.

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Long-eared Owl reportedly struck a window and was slightly injured near downtown Nashville, TN 3 Dec, but it was not present the following day (DSi, *fide* SS). Short-eared Owls were relatively scarce, with the following reports: one in *Lake*, TN 14–15 Dec (MT, BF et al.); 9 at two sites in se. *Muhlenberg*, KY 30 Dec (BP, EH); and one found dead just e. of Bardstown, *Nelson*, KY 15 Feb (BP, ZH). The only reports of Northern Saw-whet Owl involved one that was hit by a car (and subsequently died) in *Shelby*, TN 1 Dec (KM) and at least 2 that responded to taped calls in *Pulaski*, KY 30 Jan (RD). It was a below-average winter for Rufous Hummingbirds, with 4 birds lingering into late Dec in Kentucky and 16 birds banded in Tennessee (BM, SMs, MMn, BP, VR, CS, M&GW et al.). Female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered in *Oldham*, KY (b. BP, SMs) and *Warren*, KY (ph. CBN, *fide* DR) through 2 Jan, when they both likely succumbed to the cold. The latest Rufous in Kentucky lingered until 6 Feb in *Oldham* (SMs, BP). The only rarity of the season was an imm. male Allen's Hummingbird at Johnson City, *Washington*, TN 15 Oct–3 Jan (MAR); the bird was found dead on the latter date.

A Northern Shrike in *Jefferson*, KY 3–4 Feb (†CBC, †EH, JH) will represent a 3rd Kentucky record if accepted by the Kentucky B.R.C. The



This female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (here 29 November 2007 in Oldham County) was one of two that lingered in Kentucky through 2 January 2008, much later than any Ruby-throated had ever been documented to survive into winter in the state. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

earliest reported Tree Swallows were 2 at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 10 Feb (MT). A Barn Swallow in Lake, TN 14 Dec (MT, BF) was very much out of season. Black-capped Chickadees staged a minor irruption into ne. Kentucky, with at least one bird in and near Blaine, Lawrence 5 Dec–24 Feb (†BP, ph. EH et al.). Also reported were singles at Siloam, Greenup 1 Jan (†RSe) and at three nearby sites in the Boyd/Greenup portion of the Ashland C.B.C. area 28 Dec (RC).

Although the fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very conspicuous, unusually large numbers did not linger through the winter; however, small numbers did remain widely distributed across the Region. Single House Wrens were observed on three Kentucky C.B.C.s.; 3 were found on the Nickajack C.B.C., Marion, TN 29 Dec. One to 2 Marsh Wrens were found at three sites in Kentucky and at Standifer Gap during Dec. One in Kingsport, Sullivan, TN 21 Feb+ (DH, RK) was a very rare local winter record. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Hamilton, TN 15 Dec (†DV) and at Knoxville, TN 5–6 Jan (PF, ph. LB) were exceptional out-of-season reports. A Townsend's Solitaire in Union, TN 19 & 21 Jan (†SS) will provide the state's 2nd record if accepted.

A Gray Catbird in Hawkins, TN 21 Dec (SHu) was out of season. Soft mast-eating species, including American Robin, Hermit Thrush, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, were all below average in numbers during the winter. Single Orange-crowned Warblers in Hamilton, TN 15 Dec (Chattanooga C.B.C.) and 4–5 Feb (JCh, LW) and at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene, TN 24 Feb (DMi) were the only ones reported. Palm Warblers were down significantly from recent winters, with only 6 reported from five e. Tennessee counties in late Dec and Jan. An American Redstart

in Knox, TN 1 Dec (SHo) represents the first winter record for Tennessee and only the 2nd for the Region. An Audubon's Warbler was in Putnam, TN 16 Feb (SJS). Two different Common Yellowthroats were reported in s. Ohio, KY 30 Dec (†BW) and 2 Jan (KH, BS, †AS).

A possible Eastern Towhee × Spotted Towhee hybrid was present at the site in ne. Hart, KY where the male Spotted Towhee wintered in 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 (RHe et al.). Chipping Sparrows continue to be a regular winter bird at scattered sites in Kentucky; one to 50 were reported on 13 Kentucky C.B.C.s, and there were a few mid-winter reports at scattered locales. Quite unusual for the Region in winter were single Vesper Sparrows in McCreary, KY 1 Jan (†L&TM), in Meigs, TN 1 Jan (Hiwassee C.B.C.), and in Greene, TN 6 Jan (DMi); however, even more remarkable was a flock of 20 in Hamilton, TN 15 Dec (DV), representing an unprecedented number for the Region in winter. Also unusual for early winter were single Lincoln's Sparrows on the Reelfoot Lake C.B.C., Lake, TN 15 Dec (fide MG) and on the Kingsport, TN C.B.C. 26 Dec (JM). It was not a good winter for Le Conte's Sparrow in the Region, with only one bird reported n. of Provo, Butler, KY 8 Feb (BP).

A lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak was last seen in Calloway, KY 3 Dec (SL). An out-of-season Baltimore Oriole was in Knoxville, TN 27 Feb (SP). There were two reports of Brewer's Blackbirds e. of the w. portion of the Region (where they are more regular): a female in w. Hardin, KY 13 Jan (BP, MMn) and 20 at a "regular" wintering locale in Sequatchie, TN 9 Feb (TW). The only sizable flocks of Rusty Blackbirds in the Region were ca. 700 in s. Warren, KY 4 Dec (DR), 261 on the Chattanooga C.B.C., Hamilton, TN 16 Dec, and 200+ in the vicinity of Sauerheber 16 Jan (DR).

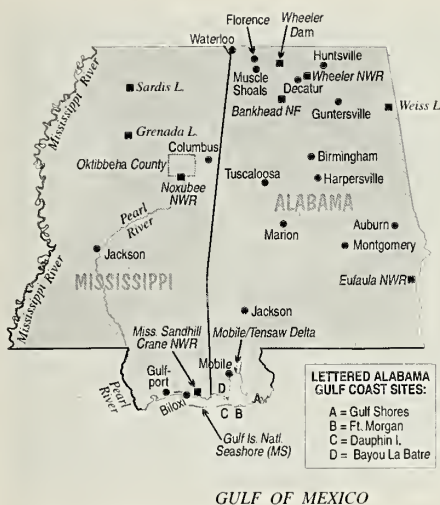
Winter numbers of Purple Finches did not end up being remarkable, although small numbers continued through the season, with one to 35 reported on 15 Kentucky Christmas counts; 129 in Tipton, TN 27 Feb (DPr) was a noteworthy high count. Despite the decent fall season flight of Pine Siskins, only one to 26 were reported on six Kentucky C.B.C.s, and very few remained through the winter. In Tennessee, Pine Siskins were locally reported in high numbers, with up to several hundred in one Nashville yard through the period (SMo), up to 150 at a feeder in Cocke, TN through the period (MS), and 162 in Tipton, TN 28 Feb (DPr). Evening Grosbeaks are rare in the Region, so singles at a feeder in Blount, TN 25 Dec (TH) and at Roan Mt., Carter, TN 12 Jan (TM) were noteworthy.

Corrigendum: In the previous winter season

report, the same Tundra Swan from Middlebrook L., Bristol, Sullivan, TN was erroneously reported as two separate records from Bristol and from Middlebrook L. The corrected record should read: imm. Tundra Swan, Middlebrook L., Bristol, Sullivan, TN 13 Dec–2 Mar (RK, m.ob.).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): David Aborn, Wendi Allen, Mark Armstrong (MAr), Michael Autin (MAu), Lyn Bales, Scott Beckerman, Patti Bell, Mark Bennett, Harold Birch (HBI), Carl Bochmann (CBc), Carolyn Bonds (CBn), Horace Brown (HBr), Todd Brown, John Brunjes, Kevin A. Calhoun (se. Tennessee), Joe Caminiti (JCa), Ron Canterbury, Phillip Casteel (middle Tennessee), Janice Chadwell (JCh), David Chaffin, Hap Chambers, Steve & Gail Clendenen, Charlie Crawford, Roseanna Denton, Melissa Easley, Kim Echols, Bob Foehring, Patty Ford, Rod Goforth, Mark Greene, Joe Guinn, Ray Hammons (RHa), Barry Hart, Richard Healy (RHe), Zoltan Hegyi, R. John Henderson, Kate Heyden, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle (SHo), Eddie Huber, Jennifer Huber, Susan Hubley (SHu), Aaron Hulsey, David Hunt, Daniel Jacobson, Steve Kistler, Rick Knight (e. Tennessee), Sally Leedom, Ed & Harry LeGrand, Charlie Logsdon, Scott Marsh (SMr), Knox Martin, Sue Massey (SMs), Wes Mattox, Beverly McDaniels, Larry McDaniel, Tom McNeill, Don Miller (DMi), Lynda & Tom Mills (L&TM), Mark Monroe (MMn), Sharon Monroe (SMo), Nancy Moore, Donald Morse, Jr. (DMo), Arlene Morton, Mike Morton (MMr), John Moyle, Brainard Palmer-Ball, David Patterson (DPa), Gary Pogue, Dick Preston (DPr), Shelly Przewrocki, Frank Renfrow, Virginia B. Reynolds (VBR), Vivian Roark (VR), David Roemer, Joan Roemer, Steve Satterfield (SS), Rick Seelhorst (RSe), Debbie Shannon (DSH), Roi Shannon (RSh), David Sims (DSi), Michael Sledjeski, Adam Smith, Brian Smith, Stephen J. Stedman, Joe Swanson, Dale & Jeannie Swant, Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), Mike Todd, Allen Trently, David Vogt, Robert Wheat, Matthew & Gail Whelan, Charlie Wilkins, Jeff R. Wilson, Terry Witt, Barbara Woerner, Libby Wolfe, Ben Yandell, Mary Yandell. Many thanks go to the numerous additional individuals who contributed information that was used in this report. 📧

Chris Sloan, 224 Hicks Road, Nashville Tennessee 37221, (chris.sloan@comcast.net);
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov)



GULF OF MEXICO

C. Dwight Cooley

The season began dry and warm during December and early January and turned wet and cool afterward. For four years, most of Alabama and Mississippi had suffered under an exceptional drought, which was broken in February. The weather pattern and its effects on birds that were chronicled by Steve McConnell in the spring report lingered through fall and into winter, resulting in significantly reduced food resources and fewer wintering birds, particularly waterfowl.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese continue to be widely reported from traditional wintering areas. A maximum of 105 was recorded at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* and *Morgan*, AL 23 Jan (JV, DSM); 37 were at Eufala N.W.R., *Barbour*, AL 6 Jan (RM); and 78 were at Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee*, MS 7 Jan (TLS). While the number of locations in which Ross's Geese are reported continues to increase, numbers were down this winter, with a maximum of 35 near Tunica, *Tunica*, MS 12 Jan (GK, SKn). Cackling Geese were lightly reported, with up to 8 at Wheeler N.W.R., AL 8-25 Jan (CDC, FE, PC, †GDJ, DGJ), while in Mississippi, 11 were in *Grenada* 24 Dec, one visited Oxford Sewage Lagoons, *Lafayette* 10 Jan, and 4 were near Tunica 12 Jan (GK, SKn). The only swan reported, on the Waterloo C.B.C. along the Tennessee R., *Colbert* and *Lauderdale* 15 Dec was not identified to species (KH, WJR). Greater Scaup occurs regularly inland, usually in mixed flocks with Lesser Scaup. In Alabama, up to 3 Greaters were at Speigner, *Elmore* 1 Dec (ECS, RK, m.ob.), and 255 were reported on the Guntersville C.B.C., *Marshall* 26 Dec (m.ob.).

Scoters are always a delight, and all three species were reported. A Surf Scoter near Tal-

lassee, *Elmore* 31 Dec (RER) provided the 2nd report for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain. In Mississippi, 2 in female plumage were at Browning Creek L., *Oktibbeha* 16 Dec (TLS), and 2 others were near Bay St. Louis/Waveland, *Hancock* 19 Jan (NB). Two ad. male White-winged Scoters were at Guntersville, AL 23 Feb (†SWM), and 3 others (2 females and one imm. male) were there 29 Feb (†GDJ, DGJ). Other reports of Surfs were one at Oneonta, *Blount*, AL 26 Feb (DB, LBr) and up to 7 at Oktibbeha County L., *Oktibbeha*, MS 22 Feb+ (TLS, MHS). Single female-type Black Scoters in Alabama at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* 12 Jan (KW, m.ob.) and Waterloo, *Lauderdale* 26 Jan (DJS, m.ob.) were unusual inland, while 8 at Bay St. Louis/Waveland, MS 19 Jan (NB) were more expected. The only Long-tailed Duck reported was at Bay St. Louis/Waveland, MS 19 Jan (NB). Hooded Mergansers typically winter in large numbers in the Tennessee River Valley; 1518 at Wheeler N.W.R. 4 Dec (CDC, m.ob.) furnished the all-time high count for Alabama. Female Common Mergansers were found in Mississippi at Enid L., *Yalobusha* 16 Feb (GK, SKn) and Arkabutla L., *DeSoto* 23 Feb (NB, GK, SKn, m.ob.).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

The center of loon distribution continues to be Guntersville, AL, where there were 2 Red-throats 5-19 Dec (RAR, LBR, †GDJ, m.ob.), 2 Pacifics 1 Dec (SWM, †GDJ), and 460 Commons 10 Feb (GDJ). Another Pacific was at Bay Springs L., *Tishomingo*, MS 9 Feb (WRP). Single Eared Grebes were inland at Town Creek, *Colbert*, AL 22 Feb (DJS) and Enid L., MS 16 Feb (GK, SKn). Alabama's 6th Western Grebe was at Guntersville 8 Dec–2 Feb (†SWM, m.ob.), while another appeared at Bay Springs L., MS 9 Feb (WRP). Over the past 10 years, American White Pelicans have become common winter residents in the Tennessee River Valley. The flock at Wheeler N.W.R. dwindled from 700+ in late Nov to 208 on 4 Dec (CDC, FBI, TA, m.ob) and 100 by 8 Jan. The same or another flock was found in the Waterloo/Wilson and Wheeler Dams area, *Colbert/Lauderdale/Lawrence*, where 175 were reported 25 Jan (GDJ, DGJ). A Brown Pelican on the Eufala N.W.R. C.B.C. 17 Dec (GEH) was unusual. Up to 4 Anhingas wintered inland at Bluff L., *Noxubee* N.W.R., *Noxubee* 15 Dec–25 Jan (LC, EC, TLS, MC, DP, m.ob.). Inland reports of American Bitterns during winter are few, so lone bitterns in *Tunica*, MS 1 Dec (MT, JEW, GK, SKn) and at Eufala N.W.R. 8 Feb (PB, PJ, JRu) were noteworthy. Rare wading birds on the Birmingham C.B.C., *Jefferson*, AL 22 Dec included its 2nd

Green Heron (MLM) and its 3rd Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (SSH, DPG). White Ibis again wintered inland, with 25 at Eufala N.W.R. 8 Feb (PB, PJ, JRu).

Raptors continue to recover from the well-documented effects of organochlorine pesticide poisoning. The 33 Ospreys on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. 5 Jan (*fide* GDJ), established a new maximum for Alabama, while other notable reports were 20 on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta C.B.C., AL 15 Dec (*fide* GDJ), 3 on the Montgomery C.B.C., *Montgomery*, AL 15 Dec (ECS), 2 on the Cullman C.B.C., *Cullman*, AL 16 Dec (*fide* GDJ), and singles at Town Creek, AL 25 Jan (GDJ, DGJ) and McLeod, *Noxubee*, MS 5 Jan (TLS). The 23 Cooper's Hawks on the Birmingham C.B.C. 22 Dec established an



Photographs of Cackling Geese at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, in *Limestone* and *Morgan* Counties, Alabama 8-25 (here 25) January 2008 document just the sixth acceptable record for the state. Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.

Alabama winter maximum. An ad. Ferruginous Hawk in *Tunica*, MS 1 Dec (GK, JRW, MT) may have been the same individual reported during the previous two winters. Up to 5 Rough-legged Hawks were near Robinsonville, *Tunica*, MS 1 Dec–12 Jan (QBG, JRW, GK, SKn, WRP). Merlins were reported from six locations in Mississippi: one male in *Lee* 24 Dec (WRP); 2 males in *Yalobusha* 4 Jan (GK, SKn); and females near Prairie Point, *Noxubee* 19 Jan (TLS, MHS) and in *Grenada* 16 Feb and *Panola* 23 Feb (both GK, SKn). The only Peregrine Falcon reported was one at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* 26 Jan (CDC, ECS, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH GULLS

Rails wintering inland are usually rare, but this winter was an exception. Two Virginia Rails were on the Auburn C.B.C., Lee, AL 15 Dec (GEH+), and singles were in Mississippi at Starkville Sewage Pond South, *Oktibbeha* until 4 Dec (TLS) and Grenada Sewage Lagoon, *Grenada* 19 Dec (GK, SKn). Single Soras were on the Auburn C.B.C. 15 Dec (GEH) and Starkville Sewage Pond South through 12 Feb (TLS); one at Noxubee N.W.R., *Winston*, MS 15 Dec established a 4th area report (TLS). Prior to 1990, encountering a Sandhill Crane in the Region away from *Jackson*, MS or *Baldwin*, AL was an event, but no longer. Sandhills reported this season included 2564 at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* and *Morgan* 23 Jan (CDC, SWM, m.ob.) that established a new Alabama maximum, 14 near Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, AL 14 Dec (RAR), 11 at Coffee Slough, *Lauderdale*, AL 14 Jan (CM), up to 67 at McLeod, MS 4-28 Jan (TLS, MHS), 40 in *Tunica*, MS 12 Jan (GK, SKn), and 4 at Noxubee N.W.R., *Winston*, MS 4 Dec (DR, TLS).



This Western Grebe at Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama was Alabama's sixth and remained there 8 December 2007 (here) through 2 February 2008. Interestingly, one week after it was last seen at Guntersville, a Western Grebe was found 200 kilometers to the west on Bay Springs Lake, Tishomingo County, Mississippi 9 February 2008. Photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

For the 2nd consecutive year, a pair of Whooping Cranes (#213 and #218) from Operation Migration wintered at Wheeler N.W.R. 28 Nov–10 Mar (CDC, WRG, †GP, m.ob.).

The 3480 Killdeer on the Wheeler N.W.R. count 15 Dec (m.ob.) established a new Alabama maximum. Wintering Greater Yellowlegs appear to be increasing in the Region; 238 on the Wheeler N.W.R. count 15 Dec (m.ob.) set a new winter inland maximum. Two Lesser Yellowlegs at Prairie Point, MS 4-5 Jan (TLS, MHS) furnished just the 2nd area winter report. Five Spotted Sandpipers were tallied on the Fort Morgan C.B.C., *Baldwin*, AL 29 Dec (fide GDJ), while others were on the Montgomery C.B.C., AL 5 Jan (fide LFG) and at *Oktibbeha* County L., MS 16 Jan+ (TLS, MHS). Two Marbled Godwits on the Dauphin Island C.B.C., *Mobile*, AL 22 Dec (fide GDJ) were a

nice find. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Swan Creek W.M.A., *Limestone*, AL 2 Dec (SWM) was late. Wintering Stilt Sandpipers are uncommon in the Region, so 25 at Blakeley I., *Mobile*, AL 30 Dec–6 Jan (CH, †JWS, JDi) were noteworthy. The 100 dowitchers on the Wheeler N.W.R. C.B.C. 15 Dec (RRS, MBS) furnished an Alabama winter inland maximum, while 11 on the Montgomery C.B.C., AL 5 Jan (LFG) were unusual.

Always exciting, a jaeger species was on the Fort Morgan, AL C.B.C. 29 Dec (fide GDJ). Two first-cycle Thayer's Gulls were teased out of 8000 Ring-billed Gulls at *Tunica* Landfill, MS 1 Dec (MT, JRW, GK, SKn), while another first-cycle bird at Guntersville 3-24 Jan (BH, RAR, †GDJ, SG) furnished the 7th report for Alabama. Alabama's 8th Iceland Gull was a first-cycle bird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* 25 Jan (†BS, ALM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now regular in coastal areas of the Region. This winter, a first-cycle bird was at e. Dauphin I., AL 20 Dec (BCG), an ad. was inland at Wilson Dam, AL 29 Dec (†GDJ, DGJ), and 5 (2 ads., one third-cycle, and 2 first-cycles) were at Magnolia Springs, AL 4 Jan (SWM, †GDJ, m.ob.). An unusual gull, tentatively identified as an ad. Glaucous-winged Gull at Magnolia Springs 5 Jan (†SWM, †GDJ), would provide the first record for Alabama and

the Southeast if the identification is confirmed. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was at Guntersville, AL 5 Jan–15 Feb (RSD, m.ob.).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

Short-eared Owls were lightly reported; the only significant count was up to 10 at *Tunica*, MS 12 Jan–23 Feb (GK, SKn). An unidentified nighthawk at Muscle Shoals, *Colbert*, AL 17 Dec (WJR) furnished the first Tennessee River Valley winter report. Six species of hummingbirds were reported in the Re-



This adult gull, tentatively identified by Steve McConnell and Greg Jackson as a Glaucous-winged Gull, visited Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama 4 January 2008. If accepted, it would represent Alabama's and the southeastern United States' first record. Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.

gion. Six Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were in Alabama, singles banded at *Mobile*, *Mobile* 19 (†FB, LJB, VB) & 27 Dec (both b., †FB, BE, NS, DS), an imm. male at Fairhope, *Baldwin* 20 Dec–4 Jan that had been banded at Victoria, TX 12 May 2007 (†FB, DWD, CPD), at Hamlin's Landing, *Baldwin* 9 Jan (b., †FB, SD, RD), and at Montrose, *Baldwin* 10 Feb (b., †FB, NM, AMo). The only Black-chinned Hummingbird report was of 2 at Henleyfield, *Pearl River*, MS mid-Dec+ (b. JFB, DBu, NB). A female Anna's Hummingbird was banded at Fairhope 18 Jan–2 Feb (†FB, MG). Four Calliope Hummingbirds were found in Alabama: one imm. male at Vestavia, *Jefferson* 17 Dec (b., †RRS, MBS, SK); one at Fairhope 4 Jan that had been banded at St. Rose, LA 28 Feb 2007 (FB, DWD, CPD); an ad. male at Mobile 4 Jan that had been banded at Mandeville, LA in 2005 (†FB, LB, CB); and an ad. female at Greystone, *Shelby* 11 Jan (b., †RRS, MBS). Mississippi had several Rufous Hummingbirds: an imm. male at Starkville 20 Oct–5 Dec (b., RRS, MBS, RR, JR), an ad. female at Starkville 1 Dec+ that presumably returned to the same yard for a 6th consecutive year (RRS, MBS, RKo, TK, TLS), and one at Henleyfield mid-Dec+ (b., JFB, DBu, NB). Two Allen's Hummingbirds were found at Mobile: one imm. male 6 Dec (b., †FB, MB) and one of unreported age and sex 19 Dec (b., †FB, AM).

An ad. male Vermilion Flycatcher bright-

SA There was a phenomenal influx of Northern Saw-whet Owls into Alabama. The movement began 21 Nov, when one owl was netted and banded at Walls of Jericho, *Jackson* by Eric Soehren and John Trent. Bob and Martha Sargent banded 8 and heard others at Clay, *Jefferson* through the season, while another responded to playback at Paint Rock River Valley, *Jackson* 29-30 Dec (v.r. SWM). Given the number of birds banded and the owls' relative reluctance to vocalize on their wintering grounds, one wonders how many were lurking out there unreported.



This first-cycle Iceland Gull at Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama 25 January 2008 represented the eighth record for Alabama. Photograph by Bill Summerour.

ened Kiln, Hancock, MS all winter (NB), while an ad. female wintered at Waveland, MS (NB, DM, SM). In contrast to previous years, Western Kingbirds were lightly reported, with singles in Alabama on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* GDJ), and at Fort Morgan 6 Jan (†GDJ, DGJ) and Dauphin Island 20 Jan (JSt, TS, JS). Reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included one on the Dauphin Island C.B.C. 22 Dec and another at Bon Secour, Baldwin, AL 30 Dec–5 Jan (DPI, m.ob.). The slow advance of Fish Crows northward in Alabama continued, with singles on the Gunter'sville C.B.C. 26 Dec (AH) and at Wheeler Dam, Lawrence 29 Dec (GDJ). Purple Martins arrived somewhat early, with 2 at Dauphin I. 20 Jan (TS, JS), one at Oktibbeha County L., MS 6 Feb (TLS), and one at Florence, Lauderdale, AL 18 Feb (PDK). Eight early Tree Swallows were at Enid Dam, Yalobusha, MS 24 Feb (GK, SKn). The Cliff Swallow at Muscle Shoals 29 Feb (DJS) represented the earliest spring arrival report for Alabama. A Cave

Swallow near Kiln 10 Feb (NB) furnished one of a growing number of reports for Mississippi. Sedge Wrens and Marsh Wrens occur sparingly inland in the Region. Inland Sedge Wrens in Mississippi included 6 near Grenada L. 19 Dec (GK, SKn) and singles at Sardis Wildlife Refuge, Lafayette 22 Dec (GK, VT) and Torrance Landing, Yalobusha 16 Feb (GK, SKn). Inland Marsh Wrens included 2 at Wheeler N.W.R., AL 17 Dec (CDC) and singles in Mississippi at

Grenada Sewage Lagoon 17 Dec, Bryant Landing, Yalobusha 19 Dec (GK, SKn), and Coldwater River N.W.R., Tallahatchie 23 Feb (GK, NB).

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKIN

An Orange-crowned Warbler at Hoover, Jefferson, AL 20 Jan (HHK, RJK, JSK) was locally rare. A male Northern Parula at Dauphin I. 25 Feb (CPD, DWD) was likely an early spring migrant. Palm Warblers were reported from Mississippi, where up to 2 frequented Oxford Sewage Lagoons 4 Jan–10 Feb (GK, SKn), and 2 others were near Grenada L. 23 Feb (TLS, MHS, JDu, GK, SKn). Two Black-and-white Warblers were on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., AL 5 Jan (DMW, WJB, GB). Alabama's 6th winter Northern Waterthrush was at Chickasaw L., Mobile 11 Dec (BGG). An ad. male Summer Tanager, rare in winter, visited Bon Secour, AL 23 Dec (†JD). I received four reports of Lark Sparrows: one imm. on the Wheeler N.W.R. C.B.C., AL 15 Dec (LBR) that

furnished the 3rd Tennessee River Valley winter report; one ad. at Gulf S.P., Baldwin, AL 3–19 Jan (MW, †SWM); one at Eufala N.W.R., AL 9 Feb (PB, PJ, JRu) that represented the first winter report for the Inland Coastal Plain; and one at Dauphin I., AL 20 Feb (RAR, LBR, HEH, BCG). Open pine savannas along the Gulf Coast are important for wintering Henslow's Sparrows; 5 were near Grand Bay, Mobile, AL 13 Dec (one b., †ECS, JT), and 4 were there 1 Feb (2 b. ECS). The only Le Conte's Sparrows reported were in Mississippi: 3 at Noxubee N.W.R., Winston 15 Dec (TLS, MHS), and singles at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge 22 Dec (GK, VT) and near Grenada L. 23 Feb (TLS, HHS, JDu). The 14 Fox Sparrows at Bryant Landing, MS 19 Dec (GK, SKn) provided a good number. Single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported on the Montgomery C.B.C., AL 5 Jan (*fide* LFG) and near Grenada L., MS 23 Feb (TLS, MHS, JDu). An ad. Harris's Sparrow, accidental in Mississippi, was in Yalobusha 19 Dec (GK, SKn).

Lapland Longspurs occur regularly in the Tennessee River Valley; this season, 300 were on the Wheeler N.W.R. count near Whiteside, Limestone 15 Dec (SWM). An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak lingered at a feeder at Opelika, Lee, AL 2 Dec (†RJ), and a female *Pheucticus* species, probably a Rose-breasted, was at a feeder near Springville, St. Clair, AL 1 Jan (AKB). Rare in winter, a Dickcissel was near Silverhill, Baldwin, AL 27 Feb+ (†BS). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird near Silverhill, AL 31 Dec (GF) was the only one reported. Encouraging reports of Rusty Blackbird were 980 at Bankhead N.E., Lawrence, AL 1 Feb (SWM) and 700+ at Enid Dam, MS 24 Feb (GK, SKn). The only Baltimore Oriole reported was a female frequenting a feeder at Silver-



One of eight banded over the season by Bob and Martha Sargent in their Clay, Alabama yard, these Northern Saw-whet Owls were part a widespread influx of these small owls in autumn 2007 and into the winter (16 February 2008, single bird; 25 February 2008, two birds). Photographs by Robert R. Sargent.

hill, AL 29 Feb+ (†BS). Purple Finches put on a fair showing, with a few reaching the coast and up to 15 were near Henleyfield, MS 18 Dec+ (NB). It was not a good year for wintering Pine Siskins, but up to 3 were reported at Henleyfield 26 Dec–27 Feb (NB).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Teresa Adams, Charlie Bailey, Laurie Bailey, Peggy Baker, Fred Bassett, Andrew K. Bates, James E. Bell, Mona Blackmon, Faye Blankenship (FBI), Ned Boyajian, Greta Bremser, William J. Bremser, L.J. Britain, Velma Britain, Duane Brown, Lynn Brown (LBr), Dot Burge (DBu), Phillip Casteel, C. Dwight Cooley, Margaret Copeland, Elsie Croft, Lawrence Croft, Rick DeCord, Sandy DeCord, John Dillon, John Dixon (JDi), Carrie P.

Dortch, David W. Dortch, Jan Dubuisson (JDu), R. Scot Duncan, Betsy Eager, Frank Fekel, Gene Fleming, Lawrence F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, William R. Gates, David P. George, Mary Gibson, Scott Gravette, Q.B. Gray, Andrew Haffendcn, Bert Harris, Chazz Hesselein, Geoff E. Hill, Howard E. Horne, Sharon S. Hudgins, Keith Hudson, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Roger Johnson, Pat Johnson, Rita Kempf, Sharon Kirby, Helen H. Kittinger, Jo S. Kittinger, R.J. Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight (SKn), Ruth Kohers (Rko), Ted Kohers, Rodney McCollum, Steve W. McConnell, Don McKee, Ainsley McNeely, Ann L. Miller, Mary Lou Miller, Sharon Milligan, Daphne S. Moland, Ack Moore (AMo), Nancy Moore, Dianne Patterson, Wayne R. Patter-

son, David Plumb (DPI), George Ponder, Robert E. Reed, Jean Reeves, Ralph Reeves, Linda B. Reynolds, Richard A. Reynolds, David Richardson, William J. Rogers, Jayne Rushin (JRu), Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Marion H. Schiefer, Terence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), Joan Siegwald, Tom Siegwald, Damien J. Simbeck, Eric C. Soehren, Donna Southall, Nick Southall, John Stowers (JSt), Bill Summerour, Vic Theobald, Mike Todd, John Trent, Jason Vehrs, Ken Ward, Don M. Ware, Joan White-Spunner, Michael Willison, Jeff R. Wilson. 🌐

C. Dwight Cooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Complex
2700 Refuge Headquarters Road, Decatur, Alabama 35603
(sabrewing@earthlink.net)

Arkansas & Louisiana



Steven W. Cardiff

Another relatively mild winter may have been responsible for above-average numbers of lingering Neotropical migrants, but the second year of the Louisiana Winter Bird Atlas project (10 January–20 February) also contributed by boosting mid/late season coverage. Otherwise, there was no dominant theme, with detections of a nice mixture of vagrants from the north, west, and south.

Abbreviations: Counties/parishes (*italics*) are indicated only for the initial mention of a specific locality, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For reports of “review list” species, documentation has been received and reports have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas records is based on *Arkansas Birds, their Distribution and Abundance* (James and Neal 1986), plus the Arkansas Audubon Society online bird record database, and, for Louisiana, on the bird record card file database and the Louisiana Bird Records Committee archives at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, as well as the most recent draft of the forthcoming “Birds of Louisiana” (Remsen, Cardiff, Dittmann, and Dickson).

WATERFOWL

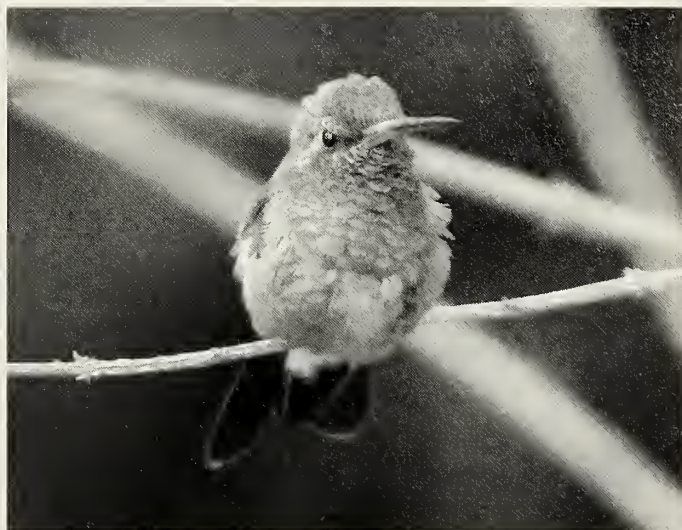
The amazing winter mega-roost of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Audubon Park, New Orleans, Orleans, LA peaked at 1350 individuals 4 Feb (RDP). Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near Thornwell, Jefferson Davis, LA 5 Dec (DLD, SWC), 8 at Cameron, Cameron, LA 15 Dec (PAW, DPM), and 2 there 3 Feb (DBo, JB) were likely rare winter visitors but conceivably could have been very late and very early migrants, respectively. Arkansas hosted an assortment of interesting geese, including



Although becoming almost routine in late winter at Baton Rouge, well-documented records of Vaux's Swifts from elsewhere in the Louisiana & Arkansas region are almost non-existent. Thus, this Vaux's, one of six at Shreveport 2 January 2008, was totally unexpected. Photograph by Matt White.

(rare in nw. Arkansas) Greater White-fronted at L. Sequoyah, Washington 16 Dec (MAM, DC, JBr), an apparent hybrid Greater White-fronted × Canada in Pulaski 26 Dec (ph. DS, ph. RH, PM), a neck-collared Snow (b. as ad. 12 Aug 2003, Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nunavut) and Ross's (b. as ad. 23 Jul 2003, Southampton I., Nunavut) in Lonoke 16 Dec (K&LN), and another neck-collared Snow (b. as ad. 14 Jul 2006, Banks I., Nunavut) in Greene 6 Feb (NA). Additionally, observations of Cackling Geese in Greene (an exceptional 58 on 6 Feb; NA), Pulaski (5 on 25 Dec; ph. DS, CP, ph. DP), Washington (8 on 29 Dec; MAM), and White (4 on 25 Feb; KN) further affirmed that this recently split species is a scarce but regular winter visitor in Arkansas.

Swans were once again exclusively reported from Arkansas: 5 Trumpeters at Boxley Mill Pond, Newton 27 Dec (Mary Ann Hicks) and



Although there are now about 35 Louisiana records of the species, Broad-billed Hummingbirds still cause plenty of excitement, as did this adult male (left) at Luling, St. Charles Parish from late December 2007 through 28 (here 5) January 2008, and this immature male at Lafayette, Lafayette Parish 21 January through 11 February (here 5) 2008. Photographs by Kay Davey (immature) and Dave Patton.

37 Trumpeters and an ad. Tundra at Albion, White 2 Jan (KN). Now seldom reported, a pair of American Black Ducks was noted in Mississippi, AR 1 Feb (DB, NA), and 4 were encountered in Crittenden, AR 23 Feb (DB). Unusual winter visitors to Arkansas, Blue-winged Teal records included a hunter-kill in Yell 5 Jan (A. J. Reynolds, *fide* Kimberly G. Smith), 3 at Arkansas Post, Arkansas 14 Jan (ph. DB), and a pair at L. Frierson S.P., Greene 20 Feb (NA). Ten Greater Scaup at Bentonville, Benton 22-25 Dec (JN, MAM) were considered unusual in nw. Arkansas, and 164 at L. Dardanelle, Yell 10 Feb (KN) was a very large number for anywhere in the Region. An estimated 25,000 Lesser Scaup at Timbalier Bay, Lafourche/Terrebonne, LA 7 Feb (DPM, BMM), although not unprecedented, was nonetheless encouraging, considering recently reported declines. Always noteworthy, winter scoters in Arkansas included a White-winged at L. Dardanelle, Yell 12 Jan (K&LN, DB) and 29 Feb (DB, Sarah Baxter) and 5 at Mallard L., Mississippi 22 Feb (ph. DB), and a Black at L. Beaverfork, Faulkner 25 Jan, and 2 at L. Dardanelle, Yell 2 Feb (both K&LN). In Louisiana, aside from an anomalous far-inland Surf Scoter at Shreveport, Caddo 30 Dec-6 Jan (ph. JfT, ph. Janis Harrison), all scoter reports were from L. Pontchartrain: Surfs peaked at about 50 along the s. shore in Orleans 22 Dec (PAW, DPM, RDP et al.), 2 White-wingeds were noted in St. Tammany 17 Dec (DP, Chris LaRouge), and singles were found in Orleans 22 Dec (RDP, RMG) and 3 Feb (DPM), and up to 10 Blacks were present in Orleans 22 Dec-16 Feb (DPM, PAW, RDP et al.). Two Long-tailed Ducks on L. Pontchartrain, St. Tammany 30 Dec (CGB, Jim Whelan) repre-

sented the only report. Red-breasted Mergansers, scarce inland, were observed in Benton 22 Dec (JN, MAM) and on L. Providence, East Carroll, LA 11 Jan (DBo, JB, PMB).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Unusual loons seem to be getting less so in Arkansas but continue to avoid Louisiana. This season, L. Maumelle, Pulaski once again hosted a Red-throated Loon 24 Dec (DBr), and Pacific Loons were reported from DeGray L., 2 on the Clark side 8 Dec (DBr) and 5 on the Hot Spring side 9 Jan (G&EG). Red-necked Grebes at L. Pine Bluff, Jefferson 27-30 Dec (ph. RD, CC) and at L. Maumelle 11 Feb (DBr) would be only about the 9th-10th Arkansas records, half of which have occurred within the past year. Inexplicably adventuresome Brown Pelicans wandered far inland to D'Arbonne L., Union, LA 15 Dec (imm.; Gerry Click et al.), and L. Dardanelle, Pope 11-14 Jan (ad.; Bo Verser, K&LN, DB). An American Bittern at Pine Bluff, Jefferson 28 Dec (KN), 7 Snowy Egrets and 6 Tricolored Herons at Shreveport 9 Dec (JfT, JT), an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron 29 Dec, and 4 White-faced Ibis 8 Dec in Desha (ph. DB), a Glossy/White-faced Ibis in Red River 5 Jan (ph. JfT, JT), and a Roseate Spoonbill in Natchitoches, LA 22 Dec (TD, JLI) were all unusually far inland during winter. Three ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons at Grassy L., Hempstead 18 Feb (DS, CM), and up to 12 ad. White Ibis there 10-18 Feb (Yancey Reynolds, DS, CM) hinted at possible resident status at this sw. Arkansas breeding site. A nice surprise was a late Wood Stork at Shreveport 4 Dec (TD). An exceptionally early Swallow-tailed Kite was sighted at Alliance, Plaque-

mines, LA 20 Feb (Jane Patterson et al.). For the 2nd year in a row, a communal roost of Northern Harriers was detected at the Pool Unit of Lacassine N.W.R., Cameron, LA, with an aggregation of 90 individuals observed 8 Feb (DBo, EIJ). Continuing an upward trend, no fewer than 24 Broad-winged Hawks were reported from Louisiana's coastal corners, including about 16 in Plaquemines/Jefferson 15 Dec-17 Feb (ph. RDP, vt. PAW, vt. DPM, ph.



This handsome adult male Anna's Hummingbird at Searcy, White County 21-29 (here 25) February 2008 was only the seventh to be found in Arkansas. Photograph by Delos McCauley.

CrM, CGB, vt. DBo et al.), and about 8 at various locations in sw. Cameron 2 Dec-24 Feb (ph. PEC, BMM, ph. JBo, ph. EIJ et al.). Swainson's Hawks near Bohemia, Plaquemines, LA 1 Dec (vt. PAW), separate individuals at Johnsons Bayou, Cameron, LA 1 (JVR, Richard Gibbons, BJO) & 2 Dec (ph. PEC, BMM, DP), and one in Faulkner, AR 7 Dec



Winter bird atlasers diligently censusing near Benton, Bossier Parish were unexpectedly rewarded by discovering Louisiana's first Gray Flycatcher. This carefully documented bird proved very cooperative and remained from 24 January 2008 (here) through the end of the period. Photograph by Jeff Trahan.

(ph. JBr) may have been late stragglers, but other singles at Buras, *Plaquemines* 20 Jan (vt. DBo, JB, EJR, DPM) and near Gueydan, *Vermilion*, LA 16 Feb (ph. PEC, BMM) were apparently wintering. The most interesting report of Crested Caracaras was of 2 unusually far e. in sw. *Lafayette*, LA 13 Feb (EIJ). At least 2 Merlins in *Benton* 31 Dec–20 Jan (DS, DoB, MAM, JN, JBr) were considered noteworthy for nw. Arkansas. One or possibly 2 *Prairie*



Pending records committee review, this immature shrike near Maysville, Benton County, Arkansas 25–30 (here 30) December 2007 will establish a first firm state record of Northern Shrike. Photograph by Jacque Brown.

Falcons once again present in *Benton* 23–31 Dec (JN, ph. DS, MAM, DBr) represented about the 10th record for nw. Arkansas; another in *Mississippi* 1 Feb (ph. DB, NA) was exceptionally far east.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Seldom reported outside sw. Louisiana, a Yellow Rail was flushed at the Bonnet Carré Spillway, *St. Charles* 29 Dec (CGB). Irregular in Arkansas in winter, 2 *Virginia* Rails were

found for the 3rd consecutive year near Sanders Lock & Dam #4, *Jefferson* 28 Dec (RD, DS, WS). Generally considered rare in winter in n. Louisiana and Arkansas, concentrations of up to 31 *Common Moorhens* at Red R. lock & dam #4, *Red River*, LA 31 Dec–20 Feb (TD, Rick Waldrop, Hubert Hervey), 67 at Arkansas Post 14 Jan (ph. DB), and 100 at the Grassy L. breeding site 18 Feb (where apparently now resident; DS, CM), were unprecedented. *Sandhill Cranes* away from expected areas included 20 near *Gravette*, *Benton* 8 Dec (Dennis & Michelle Dowles, Art Evans), up to 66 in *Mississippi/Poinsett* near *Birdsong* 1–16 Feb (ph. DB, NA), and 2 in s. *Lafayette* 27 Dec (DP, SS, Kaye Madden).

Five *Wilson's Plovers* near *Cameron* 15 Dec (DPM, PAW) and at least 13 found during *Piping Plover* surveys of the *Terrebonne/Lafourche* barrier islands 6–7 Feb (DPM, BMM, JW) once again suggested a modest but regular wintering or resident presence. Twelve *Semipalmated Plovers* at *Bayou Sauvage N.W.R.*, *Orleans* 22 Dec (curiously, on wood-chip covered surface of former elevated landfill; Tom Sherry, KD) and 2 near Kaplan, *Vermilion* 4 Jan (BMM, PEC) were at slightly inland sites with few winter records, but 5 far inland at *Shreveport* 30 Dec (ph. JfT, JT) were unprecedented. A *Black-necked Stilt* in *Desha* 8 Dec (ph. DB) was exceptionally late or possibly wintering; 10 in *Red River* 5 Jan (JfT, JT) provided one of very few winter records for n. Louisiana; and 26 near *St. Gabriel*, e. *Iberville* 19 Jan (JVR) was a relatively high winter count for Louisiana's s.-cen. interior. An *American Avocet* in *Poinsett* 10 Feb (Josh Engelbert, Melissa Patrick, ph. NA) had most likely wintered nearby and would represent the first such record for Arkansas; also a local first were 2 on the *St. Tammany C.B.C.* along the n. shore of L. *Pontchartrain* 30 Dec (ph. Rosemary Seidler, KD). *Yellowlegs* apparently attempting to winter in Arkansas included 13 *Greater* in *Poinsett* 24 Dec (RH) and 18 *Lessers* in *Prairie* 30 Dec (CC). Rare winter *Solitary Sandpipers* were documented at *New Orleans* 22 Dec (vt. PAW, vt. DPM, Tommy Harold) and at *Alliance* 18 Feb (DBo, ph. JB). Very rare away from the immediate coast, 2 *Marbled Godwits* were observed near Kaplan 4 Jan (BMM, PEC). Four *Long-billed Curlews* near *Belle Pass*, *Lafourche* 7 Feb (DPM, BMM, JW) were unusual for se. Louisiana. Ranking among the earliest-ever

Louisiana records was a *Pectoral Sandpiper* at *Alliance* 21 Feb (ph. JTS), and another at *Treadway's Fish Farm*, *Prairie* 25 Feb (ph. DB) was early for Arkansas. Three *Dunlins* in *Craighead*, AR 9 Feb (NA) was an especially noteworthy late winter occurrence; an estimated 10,000 at a mixed-species shorebird roost near *Belle Pass* 8 Feb (DPM, BMM, JW) represents a record high count for Louisiana.

GULLS THROUGH SWIFT

Lake *Dardanelle's* famous *Laughing Gull*, presumably the same individual present each winter since 1998, frequented *Yell* 20 Dec–19 Feb (K&LN). A *Franklin's Gull* near *Welsh* 5 Dec (SWC, DLD) may have been a late fall straggler. Arkansas's 5th *Thayer's Gull* was a



Louisiana's second (and first chaseable) Fork-tailed Flycatcher found near *Alliance*, *Plaquemines Parish* also constituted the first winter occurrence for the state and delighted many observers 17–27 (here 19) February 2008. The bird associated with up to 15 *Western Kingbirds* and two *Scissor-tailed Flycatchers* in the vicinity of citrus orchards, and birders searching for the Fork-tailed also discovered *Swallow-tailed Kite*, *Solitary Sandpiper*, *Pectoral Sandpiper*, *Say's Phoebe*, *Ash-throated Flycatcher*, and *Orchard Oriole* in the area. Photograph by Bill Bergen.

first-cycle bird at *Russellville*, *Pope* 12 Jan (K&LN, DB), and the state's 7th *Lesser Black-backed Gull*, found 10 Nov at L. *Dardanelle*, *Yell*, remained through 24 Feb (K&LN, m.ob.). In Louisiana, about 15 *Lesser Black-backed Gulls* were scattered near the coast 19 Dec–24 Feb (SWC, ph. DLD, BMM, CGB, ph. PEC, BMM, ph. DPM, ph. JB, ph. RDP et al.). Yet another good larid at L. *Dardanelle*, *Yell* was a first-cycle *Glaucous Gull*, the state's 7th, 26 Jan–9 Feb (K&LN, m.ob.). In contrast to last winter, there was but one report of *Great Black-backed Gull*, an ad. at *Timbalier I.*, *Terrebonne* 7 Feb (ph. BMM, Richard DeMay). A *Black-legged Kittiwake* at L. *Conway* 21 Dec (Dottie Boyles, DoB, Karen Holliday,

DBo) was a first for *Faulkner* and the only report of the species submitted. Providing Louisiana's first well-documented late-winter occurrence was a Black Tern at Cameron 3-9 Feb (JB, vt. DBo, EIJ). A Black Skimmer at Mandeville, *St. Tammany* 30 Dec (Bill & Linda Wayman, Bob Eble) was apparently the first winter record (and one of few ever) for the n. shore of L. Pontchartrain.

Keeping pace with last winter, there were three Louisiana reports of the rare Common Ground-Dove, in *Plaquemines* 2 Feb (PAW), near Bayou Goula, *Iberville* 3 Feb (JVR), and in *Vermilion* 9 Feb (PEC, DP); even more interesting were reports from Arkansas of up to 3 at Holla Bend N.W.R., *Pope* 31 Dec–26 Jan (CC, DS, K&LN et al.) and one at Monroe, *St. Charles* 5-6 Jan (KN, Jeff Wilson). A Long-eared Owl at Harrison, *Boone*, AR 19 Dec (Leesia Marshall Rosenberger, Sheree Rogers) was the only report. Arkansas reports of Short-eared Owls included one near Fayetteville 29 Dec (Lynn Armstrong, ph. JN) and a concentration of 12 at the Stuttgart Airport, *Prairie* 9 Feb (Delos McCauley, DS, WS); in Louisiana, at least 7 were found 7 Dec–2 Feb along the *Cameron* coast, where seldom encountered (JB, DBo, EJR, PMB). Baton Rouge once again hosted late winter Vaux's Swifts 23 Jan–1 Feb, with voice-confirmation on several dates and a maximum of 8 seen 24 Jan (JTS, vt. DBo, JVR, BJO et al.). Much more unexpected and establishing first local records were a presumptive Vaux's at Fontainebleau S.P., *St. Tammany* 30 Dec (MW), and 6 at Shreveport 2 Jan (ph. Matt White, Paul Miliotis).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The cream of the Louisiana winter hummingbird crop (at least 420 individuals reported) included 2 Broad-billed Hummingbirds (incredibly, now over 35 state records since 1990),



Two records of MacGillivray's Warbler in the same winter in Louisiana made for an extraordinary season and included this bird near Cameron, *Cameron* Parish 15 December 2007. Photograph by Paul E. Conover.

males at Luling, *St. Charles* late Dec–28 Jan (ph. Kay & Gerald Davey, *fide* Miriam Davey, NLN) and Lafayette, *Lafayette* 21 Jan–11 Feb (Judy Grand, ph. DP), and 3 Anna's Hummingbirds (now about 30 state records): separate females in Baton Rouge 14 Dec–6 Jan (ph. JH, b. NLN) and 8-11 Jan (Scott Knaus), and an ad. male at Mandeville 26-27 Dec (Trina & Dennis Drury). Arkansas's 7th Anna's Hummingbird was a gorgeous ad. male at Searcy, *White* 21-29 Feb (Wanda Pemberton, ph. KN, m.ob.).

Eclipsing last winter's influx, Louisiana was literally swarming with Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, with at least 89 individuals reported; Newfield banded 41 (average 20) and reported one situation involving 7-8 individuals each at two yards within five blocks of each other at River Ridge, upper *Jefferson* (b. NLN, CrM, Frank Arthur). Perhaps the most intriguing trochilid of the season was a possible Black-chinned Hummingbird × Lucifer Hummingbird, an ad. male at River Ridge 27 Jan (NLN, ph. Joan Garvey). Rare in winter on the immediate coast, an imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at Cameron 7 Dec–3 Feb (JB, vt. DBo, John Sevenair, MW) was presumably a fall leftover. Seven Least Flycatchers along the Louisiana coast was above average: one in *Cameron* 15 Dec (vt. DPM, PAW), up to 3 at a different location there 3-24 Feb (vt. DBo, JB), and 3 in lower *Plaquemines* 30 Dec–13 Jan (vt. DPM, PAW, DLD, SWC). An exhaustively documented *Empidonax* near Benton, *Bossier* 24 Jan+ was confirmed as Louisiana's first Gray Flycatcher (ph. TD, ph. Jft vt. CEL, vt. Paul Dickson, vt. DBo, ph. JB, ph. DP, b., ph. JLI, feathers deposited at Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science). Only slightly

less surprising, especially in nw. Louisiana, was another *Empidonax* well described as a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at Bossier City 20 Dec (CEL); unfortunately, hard documentation was not obtained, and the bird could not be relocated. A Say's Phoebe first found in *Vermilion* 20 Oct was "rediscovered" 19 Dec (ph. DLD, SWC, BMM) and remained until at least 24 Feb (ph. PEC, ph. JB, DBo); others in *La Salle*, LA 15 Dec (Roger J. Breedlove, Wayne L. Watkins) and at Alliance 18-20 Feb (ph. JB, DBo, RDP, BMM) brought the unprecedented fall/winter mini-invasion up to 6

individuals. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Baton Rouge 5-15 Jan (ph. Carol Foil, SWC, DLD, vt. DBo et al.) was, amazingly, only the 3rd well-documented record for the Baton Rouge area; others at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. 26 Jan (GO), Phoenix, *Plaquemines* 18 Feb, near Gueydan 23 Feb, and near Morse, *Acadia* 23-24 Feb (all JB, DBo et al.) were in areas of Louisiana where somewhat more expected. Reports of wintering Western Kingbirds continue to increase in Louisiana, with at least 23 found

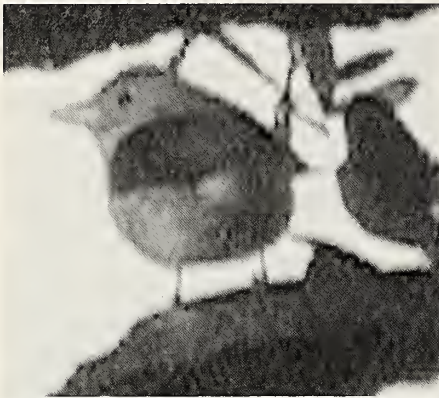


This male Cape May Warbler, discovered at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* Parish 27 January 2008, was only the second well-documented winter record for Louisiana and, surprisingly, the first from the coast; there is a previous record from far inland at Shreveport 26 December 1997 through 1 March 1998. Photograph by Phillip A. Wallace.

just in *Plaquemines*, including flocks of 7 near Diamond 6 Jan–10 Feb (DPM, vt. PAW, ph. RDP) and up to 15+ near Alliance 17-27 Feb (vt. DPM, vt. PAW, m. ob.); elsewhere, 2 were at Bonnet Carré Spillway, *St. Charles* 29 Dec (CGB, RMG, Mahlon Ayme), one was at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 27 Jan (vt. DPM, PAW, CCS), and one was near Welsh 27 Jan (JB). Although fairly regular in *Plaquemines*, at least 16 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers found there 6 Jan–27 Feb (PAW, DPM, vt. RDP, Jessica Brauch, ph. JB) was a good seasonal total and included a flock of 12 at W. Pointe a la Hache 6 Jan (PAW, DPM); one near Oak Grove, *Cameron* 23 Dec (EIJ) was more unexpected. Although upstaged by the Gray Flycatcher, indisputably more spectacular was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Alliance 17-27 Feb (vt. DPM, vt. PAW, m.ob.), only the 2nd (and first for winter) Louisiana record; debate continues regarding whether the bird can be identified to subspecies.

SHRIKE THROUGH PIPIT

Vying for top honors for the season was an imm. Northern Shrike near Maysville, *Benton* 25-30 Dec (MAM, JN, ph. JBr), a state and Regional first. A Bell's Vireo first reported at Reserve, *St. John the Baptist*, LA 26 Oct remained through 1 Jan (RJS). Rare in winter in the n. interior, especially in Arkansas, Blue-headed Vireos were noted at Holla Bend N.W.R. 20 Dec (DS, WS), at Felsenthal N.W.R., *Ashley* 10



Providing a first well-documented winter record for Louisiana (and one of few for the United States) was this male Scarlet Tanager at Triumph, lower Plaquemines Parish 30 December 2007. Photograph by Phillip A. Wallace.

Jan, and at Crossett, Ashley 28 Feb (both James Nelson). Three Purple Martins, including a female, at Baton Rouge 16 Jan (DBo) were relatively early. Nine Northern Rough-winged Swallows in Vermilion 2 Dec (JVH) and one at Cameron 7 Dec (JB, DBo) may have been late fall migrants, and 14 in Terrebonne 23 Feb (SWC) and 2 in Rapides, LA 25 Feb (JVH) could have been early spring migrants, but 29 near Henderson, St. Martin, LA 20 Jan (Bill Vermillion) were presumably wintering. Similarly, a Barn Swallow at Cameron 15 Dec may have been a late straggler, but singles in Iberia, LA 19 Feb (ph. EIJ) and Lafayette 25 Feb (TG), 6 in Vernon, LA 28 Feb, and 2 in Allen, LA 29 Feb (both Jim Johnson) were considered early spring migrants. Following last fall's modest invasion, small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported through the winter, but 11 at Cross L., Shreveport 26 Jan (JB, DBo, TD, CEL) was an exceptional density. Arkansas added 2 more Rock Wrens this winter, at L. Dardanelle dam, Pope/Yell at least 20 Dec+ (K&LN, DS et al.), and at Pinnacle Mt., Pulaski 21 Jan (ph. Andy & Kathy Radomski). A House Wren in Benton 2 Feb (MAM, JN) was well n. of the normal winter range. Arkansas's 7th Townsend's Solitaire, the 3rd discovered at Mt. Magazine S.P., Logan, was present 9 Jan–1 Mar (DRS et al.), and another was seen there 9 Feb (DRS). Getting a head start on breeding, a pair of American Robins was finishing their nest in Baton Rouge by 6 Feb and had fledged 3 young by 29 Feb (ph. Richard Greig). Somewhat out-of-range Sprague's Pipits included one at the Stuttgart Airport 30 Dec (CC) and 9 Feb (DS, DBr et al.) and a south-bound flyby after a frontal passage at Boothville, Plaquemines 13 Jan (DPM).

WARBLERS

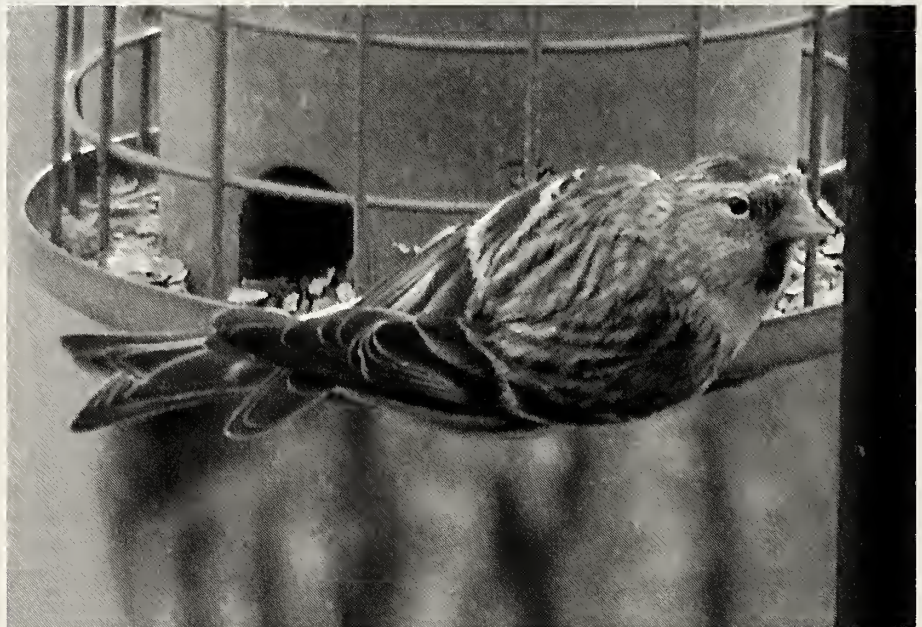
Four different Orange-crowned Warblers at Fayetteville 27 Dec–16 Feb (MAM) was an im-

pressive seasonal sum for nw. Arkansas. The only Nashville Warbler reported was at Reserve 8–12 Dec (NLN, RJS). Separate Northern Parulas in Plaquemines 30 Dec–13 Jan (PAW, RDP, CR et al.) and 17 Feb (vt. PAW) were nice finds, but even better was a Tropical Parula at Lafayette 27 Dec–1 Jan (ph. EIJ, ph. DP, ph. PEC, TG), Louisiana's 8th and first since 2001. There was only one well-documented Yellow Warbler sighting, in Lafayette 3 Jan (ph. EIJ). A Magnolia Warbler at Johnsons Bayou 2 Dec (ph. PEC, BMM) was probably a late fall straggler. Much more unexpected was a wintering male Cape May Warbler at Grand Isle 27 Jan (DPM, vt. PAW, CCS), only the 2nd well-documented winter record for Louisiana and the first for se. Louisiana. Grand Isle also hosted a very rare Audubon's Warbler 23 Dec+ (MW). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers in one year would be an excellent state total, but 3 in

Jan (G&EG) and a Common Yellowthroat at Pine Bluff 28 Dec (K&LN) were both good winter birds in Arkansas. Three reports of Ovenbirds were all from lower Plaquemines 30 Dec–13 Jan (vt. DPM, RDP, PAW, CR), and 10 Northern Waterthrushes across s. Louisiana 18 Dec–20 Feb (JH, DPM, RDP, DMD, vt. JB, vt. PAW, ph. EIJ) was a relatively high winter total. MacGillivray's Warblers near Cameron 15 Dec (ph. PEC, BMM) and at Boothville 6 Jan (DPM, PAW) represented the 10th and 11th Louisiana records and the first since 2004; there are three previous winter records. Surprisingly, the only report of Yellow-breasted Chat was well inland at L. Bistineau, Bossier (TD).

TANAGERS THROUGH DICKCISSEL

Making up for last winter's poor showing, an impressive 12 Summer Tanagers were found



There are about fifteen prior reports for Arkansas, but this Common Redpoll visiting feeders in Boone County 16 (here 26) February through 9 March 2008 became one of the best documented. Photograph by Sherry Stansbery.

one day in lower Plaquemines 30 Dec (vt. PAW, RDP, CR) was unheard of; one of the 3 was first found 16 Dec (ph. RDP), and another was still present 13 Jan (PAW, SWC, ph. DLD, DPM). Three Black-throated Green Warblers in Plaquemines 30 Dec–17 Feb (CR, vt. PAW, RDP et al.) were almost expected, but 2 at Grand Isle 27 Jan+ (DPM, PAW, CCS et al.) were at a well-covered location with relatively few late winter records. At least 14 Yellow-throated Warblers 17 Dec–23 Feb (Linda Beall, TG, ph. EIJ, CR, vt. PAW, RDP, DPM, JB, vt. DBo, GO) and 11 Prairie Warblers 16 Dec–17 Feb (ph. RDP, vt. DPM, CR, vt. PAW, RJS) on or near the Louisiana coast were above-average numbers. A Palm Warbler at DeGray L., Hot Spring 27

in s. Louisiana 12 Dec–26 Feb (ph. James W. Beck, LB, vt. DPM, vt. PAW, RDP, CR, Steve Locke, Harvey Patten, PEC, RJS, JH, RMG et al.). A male Scarlet Tanager at Triumph, Plaquemines 30 Dec (CR, vt. PAW, RDP) becomes the first well-documented winter record for Louisiana and one of very few for North America. A female Western Tanager in Baton Rouge 17–28 Jan (ph. Kevin Morgan, RMG, JH) was presumably the same bird found there the previous winter. Rare Spotted Towhees were detected at Fayetteville 16 Dec (David Oakley, ph. JBr, MAM, DC) and D'Arbonne N.W.R., Union 20 Feb (Steve L. Pagans). An American Tree Sparrow near Sedgwick, Lawrence, AR 7 Feb (DB) was the only

report. If accepted, a Clay-colored Sparrow at Fayetteville 12 Feb (MAM) would be the first winter record for Arkansas; the species is also very rare in Louisiana in winter, so singles at New Orleans 13-23 Feb (Jennifer Coulson, vt. PAW, DPM) and near Milton, Lafayette 13 Feb (ph. EIJ) added to the few well-documented late-winter occurrences. Lark Sparrows at Pine Bluff 20 Dec (K&LN), in St. Tammany 17 Dec (JF et al.), at Bonnet Carré Spillway 14 Jan (RJS), and New Orleans 23 Feb (vt. PAW, DPM) were all found in areas where considered rare in winter. Three reports of the Regionally rare Oregon Junco were received from Arkansas: males at Russellville 20 Dec (K&LN), Devil's Den S.P., Washington 13 Jan (MAM, JN, ph. JBr), and Morrilton, Conway 25 Feb (George & Cheryl Hoelzeman). A Smith's Longspur at the Shreveport Airport 12 Jan-3 Feb (TD, DBo, BMM, ph. PEC et al.) was at the only reliable Louisiana location for the species and was one of very few occurrences backed by hard evidence. Although Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks are both casual in winter in the Region, Rose-breasted tends to be the rarer of the two, and this winter was no exception, with but a single Rose-breasted documented at River Ridge 2-8 Feb (vt. CrM, Megan Mineo, Anthony Jackson) versus 4 Black-headed, including a bird well inland w. of Benton, Saline, AR 1-6 Jan (ph. Bruce Shackleford fide JN), and the rest typically closer to the coast at Butte La Rose, St. Martin 19 Dec-6 Feb (Jim Delahoussaye, vt. DBo, JB), Boothville 13 Jan (SWC, ph. DLD, vt. DPM, vt. PAW), and Lafayette 24 Jan-20 Feb (ph. SS). A Blue Grosbeak at Mire, Acadia 27 Dec (Bill Fontenot, Patti Holland) and another at Grand Isle 27 Jan (vt. DPM, PAW, CCS) were the only sightings. At least 16 Indigo Buntings, fewer than last winter but still impressive, were found in s. Louisiana 1 Dec-19 Feb (JVR, JB, DPM, vt. PAW, DBo, Michael Seymour, EIJ et al.). Similarly, about 20 Painted Buntings in s. Louisiana 22 Dec-24 Feb (vt. DPM, vt. PAW, RJS, EIJ, Cheryl Eberhardt, ph. David Sylvest, ph. Leonard & Carole McCrea, Lehman Ellis) were fewer than last winter but still well above average; one at Fayetteville 19-23 Jan (Douglas & Elizabeth James) provided Arkansas with its first Jan record. It was a slow winter for Dickcissels, and, surprisingly, both records were from se. Louisiana, where less regular: Lockport, Lafourche 5 Dec (Steve & Cindy Copeland) and New Orleans 2 Feb (ph. JF).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Vermilion 4 Feb (JVH) was the only report and a nice winter count. Although Rusty Blackbird is on the

decline, impressive counts submitted included 17 in Washington (where locally unusual) 30 Jan (MAM), 1270 (almost doubling the previous state high) at L. Providence, East Carroll, LA 17 Jan (PMB, JB, DBo), and 120 at Milton 24 Feb (EIJ, CEL, DBo, JB). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles at Little Rock, Pulaski 14-16 Feb (WS, DS et al.) was apparently a first for cen. Arkansas, and 4 in Red River 5 Jan (JT) added another winter record for nw. Louisiana; in nw. Arkansas, where now well established, up to 500 were reported from the Siloam Springs area, Benton 26 Dec-1 Jan (JN, MAM, K&LN). Always a great winter bird, this season's 2 Orchard Orioles were, surprisingly, both ad. males: near Baton Rouge 6 Dec (EIJ) and near Alliance 23 Feb (ph. PEC, ph. DLD et al.). Seven Baltimore Orioles found in s. Louisiana during the period (JVH, MW, DMD, ph. PEC, Sam & Beth Maniscalco, vt. PAW et al.) was low. Modest numbers of Purple Finches continued to be found through the Region following last fall's late influx; most notable were singles on the se. coast at Boothville 13 Jan (DLD, SWC) and Grand Isle 27 Jan (vt. PAW, CCS). Five Red Crossbills in Monroe 30 Jan (ph. RH) was the only report. And, finally, another exciting find in Arkansas was a Common Redpoll between Harmon and Zinc, Boone 16 Feb+ (Ted Stansbery, ph. Sherry Stansbery, ph. Sally Jo Gibson, DS, DBr, m. ob.); there are about 15 previous state records.

Initialed observers (subregional editors bold-faced): Nick Anich, Dick Baxter, Linda Beall, Phred M. Benham, Devin Bosler (DBo), Justin Bosler, Doris Boyles (DoB), Dennis Braddy (DBr), Christopher G. Brantley, Jacque Brown (JBr), Steven W. Cardiff (Louisiana), David Chapman, Paul E. Conover, Cameron Cox, Terry Davis, Kathy Disalvo, Donna L. Dittmann, Danny M. Dobbs, Rob Doster, Joelle Finley, Glenn Good, Evelyn Good, R. Martin Guidry, Toddy Guidry, Jeff Harris, Ron Howard, Jay V. Huner, James L. Ingold, Erik I. Johnson, Charles E. Lyon, Charles Mills, Craig Mineo (CrM), Michael A. Mlodinow, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Joe Neal (Arkansas), Nancy L. Newfield, Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, Brian J. O'Shea, Glenn Ousset, Dave Patton, Robert D. Purrington, E. J. Raynor, J. V. Remsen, Christy Riehl, Stacey Scarce, Dan Scheiman, William Shepherd, Don R. Simons, Curtis C. Sorrells, Ronald J. Stein, Josh T. Sylvest, Jean Trahan, Jeff Trahan (JfT), Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber, Jeremy White. ☺

Steven W. Cardiff, Museum of Natural Science
119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-3216, (scardif@lsu.edu)

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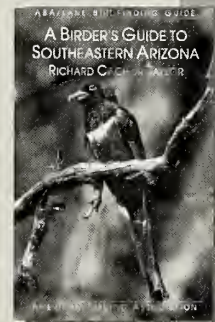


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Northern Canada



Cameron D. Eckert

This season brought some real winter conditions to the Region for the first time in a few years, although not like the prolonged deep freezes that were typical 30 years ago. As usual, Christmas Bird Counts made a significant contribution to reports in the Region.

WATERFOWL THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Snow Goose at Normal Wells, NWT in mid-Dec (*fide* RP) may be the first winter report for the Region. Seven of 10 Trumpeter Swans (7 ads., 3 imms.) found at Johnson's Crossing, s. Yukon 2 Feb survived until spring (ph. AS). Three Mallards were at Klukshu, sw. Yukon 3 Jan (LF), while a record 43 were tallied at McIntyre Cr., Whitehorse, s. Yukon 16 Feb (AM, KM). Eight Common Eiders, the only ones reported in the Region, ensured that Common Raven was not the only species found on the Rankin Inlet C.B.C. 23 Dec (BZ). The Arctic Bay, Nunavut C.B.C. turned up 2 Rock Ptarmigans and 111 Common Ravens 5 Jan (CK), thereby matching the Rankin Inlet C.B.C. total of two species. High counts of Willow Ptarmigans were 375 at Yellowknife, NWT 29 Dec (*fide* RbB) and 39 at Norman Wells, NWT 29 Dec (*fide* RP). A lone Sharp-tailed Grouse enlivened the Yellowknife C.B.C. 29 Dec (*fide* RbB), with others found in count week on C.B.C.s at Inuvik, Fort Smith, and Norman Wells (*fide* CD; DA; RP).

Bald Eagles were limited to s. Yukon, with 2 at Lewes Marsh 9 Dec (CaCM, CyCM, HG), singles on C.B.C.s at Carcross 16 Dec (*fide* DK) and Watson L. 26 Dec (*fide* TMK), and a record 5 on the Whitehorse C.B.C. 26 Dec (CE, DM, JM). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Haines Junction 12 Dec (WJ) provided the 2nd winter sighting in s. Yukon. An imm.

Golden Eagle was a nice find on the Whitehorse C.B.C. 26 Dec (CE, DM, JM). Whitehorse's Rock Pigeon population increased from near extirpation a few years ago to 47 birds 8-26 Dec but declined to just 13 by late Feb (HG), which suggests that the flock again attracted the attention of a local Northern Goshawk. Casual during winter, a Snowy Owl graced Hay River, NWT (*fide* GV). Northern Hawk Owl reports, mostly in s. Yukon, included singles at L. Laberge 1 Dec (BD, CE, HG), Whitehorse 23 Dec-27 Jan (CE; HG, CO), Haines Junction 20 & 28 Dec (LA, TS), Teslin 3 Jan (*fide* BS), and Mayo, cen. Yukon 29 Dec (MOD). A Great Gray Owl was found at Quill Cr., sw. Yukon 29 Dec (LA). Black-backed Woodpeckers are scarce in s.-cen. Yukon, so one at Tagish 18 Feb (SvD) was notable.

PASSERINES

Wintering Northern Shrikes in s. Yukon included singles at Marsh L. 13 Dec (HG, CO), Whitehorse 26 Dec (CE) and 1-13 Jan (HG), Haines Junction 19 & 24 Jan (WR; BC, GC), Teslin (*fide* BS), and L. Laberge all winter (KO). In the annual C.B.C. competition to record the larger number of Common Ravens, Whitehorse, s. Yukon produced 1476 on 26 Dec (*fide* WN) but couldn't quite match the 1523 at Yellowknife, NWT 30 Dec (*fide* RbB). Perhaps more impressive were the near-darkness raven counts in Nunavut of 111 at Arctic Bay 5 Jan (CK) and 63 at Rankin Inlet 23 Dec (BZ). Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly well represented on this year's C.B.C.s, including 3 at Marsh L. 16 Dec (*fide* HG), 4 at Carcross, s. Yukon 16 Dec (*fide* DK), 2 at Hay River, NWT 16 Dec (*fide* GV), 2 at Fort Smith, NWT 20 Dec (*fide* DA), and 5 at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 20 Dec (*fide* JB). An American Robin lingered at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 8 Dec (CW).

A Northern Mockingbird, casual in the Region, was reported on the Whitehorse C.B.C. 26 Dec (*fide* WN). Small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings remained into winter, with the highest total of 248 on the Whitehorse C.B.C. 26 Dec (*fide* WN). Seasonally rare sparrows included a White-throated at Hay River, NWT 20 Dec (*fide* GV); single Harris's Sparrows at Hay River 20 Dec (*fide* GV), and Norman Wells, NWT 29 Dec (*fide* RP); and an imm. White-crowned Sparrow at Takhini Hot-springs Rd., s. Yukon 17 Jan (IP, BD, HG). Yukon C.B.C.s produced a record number of wintering Dark-eyed Juncos: 3 at Marsh L. 16 Dec (*fide* HG); 9 at Carcross 16 Dec (*fide* DK);

14 at Haines Junction 20 Dec (*fide* JB); and 21 at Whitehorse 26 Dec (*fide* WN). The most hardy junco wintered at Dawson, cen. Yukon and survived frigid temperatures down to -51° C (ML). However, not all juncos fared so well: only 4 of the 14 counted early in the season at one Whitehorse feeder were still present by Mar (CE, PS).

Birds found at separate feeders near Haines Junction, sw. Yukon included a Snow Bunting 13 Feb (GM, NM) and 3 Purple Finches 4 Dec (JB). Common Redpolls were present in good numbers this winter in s. Yukon, although sick and dead birds were widely reported. Hoary Redpolls were unusually rare; for example, the Whitehorse C.B.C. tallied 681 Common but zero Hoary Redpolls 26 Dec (*fide* WN). Feeder-based banding of redpolls through the winter at Whitehorse and Teslin, s. Yukon netted 699 Common and 4 Hoary (BS). Evening Grosbeaks were considered regular during winter at Watson L., s. Yukon 10 years ago but have become quite scarce; only a lone bird was found on the C.B.C. 26 Dec (*fide* TMK). Grosbeaks are still common in Northwest Territories, with 71 on the Fort Smith C.B.C. 20 Dec (*fide* DA) and 7 on the Hay River C.B.C. 20 Dec (*fide* GV). Whitehorse's recent House Sparrow population, which numbers about 24, apparently had little trouble surviving the winter, as birds were heard vigorously chirping from various nest sites by late Feb (RgB; BD; CE). Christmas counts elsewhere in the Region reported 2 at Carcross, s. Yukon 16 Dec (DK), 36 at Hay River, NWT 20 Dec (*fide* GV), and 280 at Yellowknife 20 Dec (*fide* RbB).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Libby Anderson, Dawn Andrews, Julie Bauer, Robert Bromley (RbB), Roger Brown (RgB), Brodie Calef, George Calef, Carol Callahan-Maureen (CaCM), Cynthia Callahan-Maureen (CyCM), Boris Dobrowolsky, Craig Dockrill, Cameron Eckert, Marsha Flumerfelt, Lloyd Freese, Helmut Grünberg, Walter Jux, Dan Kemble, Clare Kines, Maria Ledergerber, Aaron Marshall, Karen Marshall, George Maxwell, Norma Maxwell, Don Moore, Joyce Moore, Ted Murphy-Kelly, Wendy Nixon, Mark O'Donoghue, Clive Osborne, Katie Ostrom, Richard Popko, Ineka Prior, Wolf Riedl, Ben Schonewille, Pam Sinclair, Terry Skjonsberg, Adam Skrutkowski, Rick Staley, Douglas Tate (NWT), Shyloh van Delft, Gary Vizniowski, Cathy Walton, Brian Zawadski. ☺

Cameron D. Eckert, 1402 Elm Street
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4B6, (cdeckert@northwestel.net)



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

If ever a season could be described as boring, this was it. Relatively few half-hardy birds lingered, there were no major incursions, and very few rarities were reported. Temperatures were average for most of the season, except for a bitterly cold February, when the wind-chill factor reached -50°C on a number of occasions in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. At such times even hardy birds such as Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, and Bohemian Waxwings were seen to suffer, with frost-covered eyes and bedraggled plumage. Precipitation ranged from average in the far east and north to well below normal in the west.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GULLS

Fifteen hundred Snow Geese lingered at Boundary Dam, SK 10 Dec (KH). A Trumpeter Swan at Kananaskis, AB 27-28 Dec was at an unexpected location (JB, ES, m.ob.). Green-winged Teal, rare during winter, were noted at Bracken Falls, MB (MNS), Winnipeg, MB (RP), both 1 Dec, and Medicine Hat, AB 5 Jan (TK). Calgary hosted at least 3 Canvasbacks

and up to 26 Redheads in Jan (m.ob.). Also at Calgary were 3 different Common Goldeneye $\times$ Barrow's Goldeneye hybrids on various dates (TK) and a Red-breasted Merganser 9 Jan (AS). Willow Ptarmigan ranged as far s. as Clearwater L. and Cranberry Portage in cen. Manitoba, making the best showing in many years (*fide* DR). A tally of 44 ptarmigan represented a high number on the Creighton C.B.C., SK 29 Dec (m.ob.), and there were numerous reports in the Fort McMurray, AB area (TH, m.ob.). A Pacific Loon and an Eared Grebe both survived at Wabamun L., AB until 23 Jan (m.ob.). A Common Loon tarried at Canmore, AB through 8 Dec (WH). Two American White Pelicans photographed at Gardiner Dam, SK 1 Dec (SNS) survived until at least 17 Dec. A Double-crested Cormorant at Wabamun L. 10 Feb provided a good mid-winter report (C&MM). A Turkey Vulture, very rare during winter, was near Riverhurst, SK 15 & 25 Jan (MP). Northern Harrier numbers in s. Alberta were higher than normal, with 10+ noted (m.ob.), whereas Merlin numbers plummeted at Winnipeg, possibly due to West Nile virus. A winter Virginia Rail near Banff, AB 15 Dec was remarkable but not unprecedented. Killdeer were prominent in the Calgary area early in the season, but few remained through Feb (m.ob.). A Glaucous Gull on the Gardiner Dam C.B.C. 17 Dec was noteworthy (*fide* GK). A "very cooperative" and well-photographed Ivory Gull that visited a ranch near Hines Creek, AB 17 Jan (ph. C&PH, *fide* JH) furnished the 5th accepted report for Alberta.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

New locations for Eurasian Collared-Doves were Claresholm, AB, Elbow, SK, and Dauphin and MacDonald, MB. The population at Swift Current, SK now numbers about 100 birds (*fide* GK). Owls often provide much of the best birding during winter, but this season produced mixed results. An Eastern Screech-Owl on the Somme C.B.C., SK 2 Jan was well n. of its normal range (*fide* GK). Only Saskatchewan had good concentrations of Snowy Owls, such as the 41 tallied in the Matador area 6 Feb (DZ, MS). Up to 6 per day were e. of Calgary (TK et al.), and, as usual, fair numbers were w. and sw. of Winnipeg. Several Northern Hawk Owls were reported in Alberta, with 5 others in Saskatchewan and at least 12 in Manitoba. Northern Pygmy-Owls kept hotlines humming in the Calgary area: up to 3 were at Fish Creek PP (m.ob.), with a

few noted elsewhere. Great Gray Owls were scarce, except in the Opal, AB area, where about 25 were found 17-18 Feb (GR, RC et al.), with 9 others between Creighton and Smeaton, SK 19 Dec (B&HS). There were a handful of Great Grays in Manitoba, including 4 at Hecla I. in late Feb (HHi, m.ob.). Short-eared Owls were prominent, with 10 wintering in the Winnipeg area and 9 e. of Calgary 10 Feb (TK). A Lewis's Woodpecker at Calgary 8 & 12 Dec (DD) would represent an Alberta first for winter if accepted. The Red-bellied Woodpecker at Ponoka survived the season and furnished Alberta's first or 2nd report (JJ, m.ob.). Another Red-bellied near Yorkton



This first-cycle Ivory Gull made a brief visit to a ranch near Hines Creek, Alberta on 17 January 2008. There are four previous accepted records for the province. Photograph by Curt and Patty Hale.

(JY, m.ob.) provided Saskatchewan with its 2nd winter report and 7th report overall, while Manitoba harbored at least 4 birds.

PASSERINES

After a good fall showing, Northern Shrikes continued strongly through the season. A pair of Common Ravens commenced egg laying at Saskatoon, SK in mid-Jan and produced 4 fledglings by 6 Mar (ph. NS), quite a feat given the bitter cold of the season. Black-capped Chickadees were prominent in s. Manitoba; 19 were counted at a Grosse Isle feeder 30 Dec (KG). A Mountain Chickadee on the Eastend, SK C.B.C. 2 Jan provided the 8th provincial report (m.ob.). Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were up, with several record-high C.B.C. tallies in s. Manitoba. A Winter Wren at Bow Valley PP, AB 28 Dec was a good find (J&MM, JP), as was a Mountain Bluebird at Calgary 24 Dec (ASi), believed to be a provincial winter first. Townsend's Solitaires continue to wander eastward from the Rockies more frequently. Besides numerous reports in the Calgary area, there were at least 17 in Saskatchewan and 3 in Manitoba. A Gray Catbird at Goodeve, SK 1 Dec (*fide* RD) was very late. The highest count of Bohemian Waxwings was 5500 at



American White Pelicans, often injured birds, occasionally linger into winter on larger bodies of water in the Prairie Provinces region. These two, seen here on 1 December 2007, survived at Gardiner Dam, Saskatchewan until at least the 17th of the month. Photograph by Nick Saunders.



This male Black-headed Grosbeak at Alonsa on 4 December 2007 provided Manitoba with its first winter record of the species. One bird, possibly the same, had visited the same feeder in November 2006. Photograph by Harry Harris.

Saskatoon 15 Feb (NS, GK).

A Spotted Towhee verified at Regina, SK 9 Jan (BL) had been present for some time. About 10 Northern Cardinals were reported in s. Manitoba. Farther w., where much rarer, one cardinal wintered at Saskatoon (m.ob.), and another was at Calgary 23 Jan (*fide* TK). A Black-headed Grosbeak, rare at any season in Manitoba, visited an Alonsa feeder 4 Dec



This Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Norquay, Saskatchewan on 11 December 2007 was the only one reported in the eastern part of the Prairie Provinces region during the season, but huge numbers were noted in western Alberta. Photograph by Lynn Sawatzky.

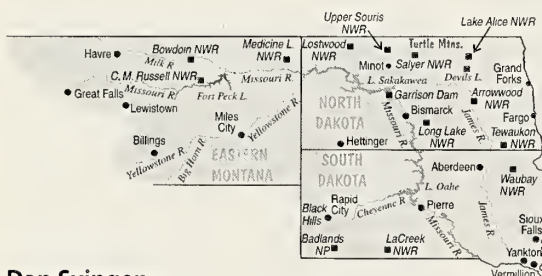
(ph. HH); amazingly, the same feeder hosted the previous latest bird—perhaps the same individual—in Nov 2006. A Western Meadowlark at Petersfield, MB 6 Jan (RKS) and a Brown-headed Cowbird at Teulon, MB in mid-Dec (D. & L. Bean) were seasonally rare. Impressive concentrations of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Alberta peaked at 10,000

near Hinton 19 Jan (*fide* JR) and 4000 between Exshaw and Johnson's Canyon 16-17 Feb (DE). A Gray-crowned near the Manitoba border at Norquay, SK 11 Dec (LS) was extralimital. Pine and Evening Grosbeaks were in their highest numbers in s. Manitoba in years, with the latter species spilling into s. Saskatchewan. White-winged Crossbills were widely scattered through s. Manitoba. Common Redpolls were down from this past winter but accompanied by the usual smattering of Hoary Redpolls. Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches were both spottily distributed.

Contributors (provincial compiler in bold-face): J. Bargman, D.&L. Bean, R. Cromie, D. Dodsworth, R. Dudragne, D. Elphinstone, K. Gardner, C.&P. Hale, H. Harris, K. Hedegard, W. Hewitt, H. Hinam (HHi), T. Hindmarch, J. Hudon, J. Jones, R. Koch-Schulte, T. Korolyk, G. Krätzig, B. Luterbach, J.&M. MacDonald, C.&M. Manly, R. Parsons, J. Pilny, M. Priebe, D. Raitt, J. Rogers, G. Romanchuk, N. Saunders, L. Sawatzky, B.&H. Schmidt, A. Slater, E. Spalding, A. Stiles (AST), M. Stoffel, J. Young, D. Zazelenchuk, Manitoba Naturalists Society, Saskatoon Nature Society. 🌐

Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 0G1, (rkoes@mts.net);
Peter Taylor, P. O. Box 597, Pinawa
Manitoba R0E 1L0, (taylorp@granite.mb.ca)

Northern Great Plains



Dan Svingen

Winter weather conditions varied across the Region, with the mountains of central Montana and the valleys of the eastern Dakotas receiving average to above-average snowfall, while eastern Montana and the western and central Dakotas were largely snow-free. Mild temperatures through late December were replaced by seasonably cold weather for much of the remainder of the winter. Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Townsend's Solitaires, and

Pine Siskins all visited the Region in above-average numbers. The highlight of the season, however, was the first Ivory Gull in South Dakota.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Numerous lingering waterfowl were noted, particularly early in the season. One or 2 Trumpeter Swans were at Great Falls, MT 8-28 Jan (AE, BH, RMo). A Tundra Swan, accidental in the Region during winter, was in McLean, ND 14 Dec (CDE, LRE) and 15 Jan (p.a., JE). Two White-winged Scoters near Bismarck, ND 26 Dec (p.a., JE) provided a rare winter report. Less surprising waterfowl notables included single Greater White-fronted Geese on the Garrison Dam, ND C.B.C. 14 Dec (*fide* REM) and n. of Fort Peck, MT 21 Feb (CC); hundreds of Cackling Geese that wintered at Fort Peck, MT (CC); Canada Geese in Pembina, ND 21-26 Jan (ME, DOL) and over Watford City, ND 24 Feb

(CDE, REM); a Wood Duck on the Jamestown, ND C.B.C. 14 Dec (*fide* LI); 2 Green-winged Teal at Garrison Dam 1-13 Jan (REM, ES, DNS); and a Ring-necked Duck and Red-breasted Merganser on the Garrison Dam C.B.C. 14 Dec (REM, DNS). Two Horned Grebes at Garrison Dam 8 Dec (REM) were tardy, whereas a Western Grebe at Nelson L., Oliver, ND 5 Jan (HCT, CDE) was probably wintering. Two Great Blue Herons enlivened the Grand Forks C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* DOL); the species is very rare during winter in North Dakota. Winter Turkey Vultures are always worthy of mention; 2 were near Terry, MT 21 Dec (TN), and another fed on a deer carcass near Linton, ND 22 Feb (p.a., TCK).

In North Dakota, large stretches of the Missouri R. between Garrison Dam and Bismarck were ice-free, at least periodically, attracting tens of thousands of geese. This was undoubtedly the major factor in the detection of a record-high 85 Bald Eagles during the mid-winter eagle count 11 Jan (PI). Northern Har-

riers were widely and persistently reported. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase in North Dakota during winter; 5 were found on Christmas counts this season. Rough-legged Hawks were widely reported until colder weather arrived in early Jan. There were 2 Gyrfalcons in Montana: one harassing a Prairie Falcon near Westby 16 Jan (TN), and one being harassed by a Northern Harrier in McCone 26 Feb (CC). There were also several Gyrfalcons in North Dakota, including singles at less-typical localities such as Long Lake N.W.R., *Burleigh* 3 Dec (MJR), near Kensal, *Stutsman* 26 Jan (HAK, MH), and in *Sargent* 3 Feb (KA, *fide* SDL). As usual, numerous Gyrfalcons were noted in n.-cen. South Dakota.

CRANES THROUGH NUTHATCHES

A lingering Sandhill Crane was n. of Fort Peck, MT 20 Dec (CC). Even more surprising was the Whooping Crane that remained sw. of Medina, *Stutsman* through 21 Dec (p.a., PRS), furnishing a first winter report for North Dakota. Two record-early American Woodcocks displayed at Jamestown, ND 25-26 Feb (LI). Gulls provided much of the winter birding excitement. An Iceland Gull at Oahe Dam 26 Jan-24 Feb (p.a., KM, RM, RO) provided the 9th report for South Dakota. A Black-legged Kittiwake in *Charles Mix*, SD 3-10 Dec (RM) provided one of relatively few recent reports. The traditional post-C.B.C. birding slump was wonderfully interrupted this year by the discovery of South Dakota's first and the Region's 2nd Ivory Gull, a first-cycle bird at Oahe Dam 16-26 Feb (p.a., RO et al., ph.).

Among the numerous Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported in North Dakota was a northwesterly bird that wintered at Audubon N.W.R., *McLean* (CH). Accidental in the Region during winter, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was photographed at Grand Forks, ND 1 Jan (BBC). Northern Shrikes made a good showing in North Dakota, with 63 individuals reported on 17 Christmas counts. A Clark's Nutcracker was along the Missouri R. n. of

Bismarck, ND 20 Dec (p.a., Rose H. *fide* HCT), furnishing about the 2nd report for the state. Unusual locations for Common Ravens were singles in *Pennington*, SD 1-9 Dec (EB) and in *Lawrence*, SD 2 Dec (RO), plus 2 in *Benson*, ND 6 Jan (REM), while 27 in *McHenry*, ND 2 Dec (REM) and 35 in *Pembina*, ND 26 Jan (ME, DOL) represented particularly high counts. Red-breasted Nuthatches were relatively abundant in North Dakota, with 278 tallied on C.B.C.s.

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH SISKINS

Eastern Bluebirds in *Morton*, ND 13 Dec (KS, JS, PS, SS) and an early arrival at Burlington, ND 28 Feb (GTL, *fide* SDL) were notable. Mountain Bluebirds were found in *Burleigh*, ND 23 Feb (PCV) and *McCook*, SD 12 Jan (JP). This was a good winter for Townsend's Solitaires in both Dakotas, with 31 individuals on eight North Dakota C.B.C.s. A Hermit Thrush was photographed near New Town, ND 5 Dec (JS, *fide* BH); others were found in *Hughes*, SD 21 Dec (KM) and at Frost Game Production Area, *Clay*, SD 29 Dec (DS). The only Varied Thrushes reported in North Dakota were singles on the Minot C.B.C. 23 Dec (*fide* REM) and at Stanley 13-18 Feb (Great Backyard Bird Count). Gray Catbirds are casual early winter stragglers in the Region, so the singles in *Hughes*, SD 15-30 Dec (KM) and at Bismarck, ND 16-22 Dec (J&TB) were of interest. A Northern Mockingbird brightened Mandan, ND 22 Dec (MB, *fide* HCT). A Brown Thrasher near Floweree, MT 22 Jan (RMO) and a Vesper Sparrow in *Stanley*, SD 1 Dec (KM) were accidental during winter. Additional sparrow spice was provided by a Fox Sparrow at Big Sioux State Recreation Area, *Minnehaha*, SD 16 Feb (MZ), a Song Sparrow at Grand Forks, ND 1 Dec (DOL), and single Swamp Sparrows in *Lake*, SD 20 Dec (JP) and *Yankton*, SD 2 Feb (DS).

Sightings of Northern Cardinals in unusual areas were one at Minot, ND into early Dec (CK), a female at e. Bismarck, ND through 22

Dec (J&TB), and one that wintered at Devils L., ND (KO). Western Meadowlarks made a strong showing, with one in *Grand Forks*, ND 15 Dec-31 Jan (EEF), 2 on the Bismarck-Mandan C.B.C. 16 Dec (WK), 3 in *Barnes*, ND 25 Jan (MAO), and one near Kenmare, ND 16 Feb (RR). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds enlivened *McHenry*, ND 19 Dec (REM), with another at Hurdsville, ND 30 Dec-1 Jan (CDE, REM). Brewer's Blackbird reports were 4 on the Long Lake N.W.R. C.B.C., ND 14 Dec (*fide* MJR), 18 at Arrowwood N.W.R., ND 30 Dec, with one remaining through 26 Jan (PRS), and one at Audubon N.W.R., ND 1 Jan (REM). Pine Siskins were widely reported; for instance, they were found on 17 of 18 North Dakota C.B.C.s. High numbers of siskins included 700 in *McHenry*, ND 2 Dec (REM), 1330 on the Minot C.B.C., ND 23 Dec (*fide* REM), and 1500 at *Pembina*, ND 26 Jan (ME, DOL).

Contributors cited (state compilers in bold-face): Kristine Askerooth, Mike Barnhardt, Betsy Batstone-Cunningham, Ellie Bernier, Julie & Tim Buresh (J&TB), Charles Carlson (Montana), Arla Eckert, Magnus Elfving, Corey D. Ellingson (North Dakota), Linda R. Ellingson, Jeff Essler, Eve Freeberg, Beth Hill, Bernice Houser, Larry Igl, Patrick Isakson, Harold A. Kantrud, Will Kindcaid, Todd C. King, Charles Kircher, Mark Hoefs, David O. Lambeth, Gary T. Leslie, Sherry D. Leslie, Ronald Mabie, Ron E. Martin (REM), Kenny Miller, Richard Mousel (RMO), Ted Nordhagen, Ricky Olson, Mark A. Otmes, Kitty Overbo, Jeffery Palmer (South Dakota), Mike J. Rabenberg, Russ Rytter, Paulette R. Scherr, Johan Stenslie, Kirstian Stenslie, Peder Stenslie, Solvei Stenslie, Dan N. Svingen (DNS), Emily Svingen, Dave Swanson, Clark H. Talkington, Paul C. VanNingen, Mick Zerr. ☼

Dan Svingen, Dakota Prairie Grasslands
240 West Century Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
(dsvingen@fs.fed.us)

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Joseph A. Grzybowski
W. Ross Silcock

The most popular phrases for the season were probably “lingering” and “wintering north of typical range,” a reflection of the continuing effects of climate change. The difference in northern fringes of certain species’ wintering ranges since 1990 may be as much as 100 kilometers, in fact. Species previously wintering regularly northward to Dallas, Texas might now be expected to winter north to Oklahoma City. While a seasonal report from 1990 might list a smattering of extralimital shorebirds risking wintering in the Region, these species are now present in ever-growing flocks. Who would have predicted a flock of Long-billed Curlews wintering in southwestern Oklahoma? The other big pattern of the season was the irruption of winter finches, primarily of Purple Finches but also including Cassin’s Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins. A weaker pattern prevalent this season was the movement eastward into the Region of Rocky Mountain species such as Barrow’s Goldeneye, Western Bluebird, Mountain Chickadee, and Pygmy Nuthatch. Finally, the 13 species of gulls found Regionwide stress the importance of examining larid flocks.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); L. McConaughy (Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK).

GEESSE THROUGH FALCONS

One million Snow Geese were at Rainwater Basin, NE 29 Feb (JGJ). Some 250 Ross’s Geese were at Cheyenne Bottoms 26 Jan (SS), a high count there. Single Brant were in Texas,

OK 26 Dec (M&MP) and Pratt, KS 24 Jan (MBI). Trumpeter Swans continue to be reported, with increasing numbers southward; best counts were 17-18 that wintered in Shawnee, KS (BM), 9 in Delaware, OK 9-19 Jan (EH), and 8 in Osage, OK 15 Jan (MD). Up to 15 unidentified swans that wintered in Osage, OK (TC, m.ob.) may have included some of the Trumpeters mentioned above, although 2 Tundras were identified there 8 Feb (BC). Other reports of Tundras included 2 at Quivira 4 Dec (MR, DK) and 4 in Alfalfa, OK 5 Jan (JWA, EBe, FS). Rare in the Region, 2 American Black Ducks were in Douglas, KS 2-18 Jan (AM, m.ob.). A Blue-winged Teal lingered at Red Slough 7 Jan (DA), while an early migrant was in Phelps, NE 29 Feb (JGJ). A Northern Shoveler in Scotts Bluff, NE 9 Jan (AK) was unusual during midwinter. The best tally of Canvasbacks was 300 in Phelps, NE 29 Feb (JGJ). Up to 500 Greater Scaup, an exceptional number, were at Sooner L., Noble, OK 4 Jan-19 Feb (JWA). Only three scoters were reported: a female Surf in Pawnee and Noble, OK 2 Dec (VC) and 19 Feb (JWA), and up to 2 White-wingeds (ad. male and one in female plumage) in Lancaster, NE 7-15 Dec (JGJ). Long-tailed Ducks showed well in Oklahoma, with 8 reported: singles in Tulsa 16 Dec-20 Jan (TM, TC), Rogers Mills 20 Dec (GK), Oklahoma 5 Jan (CW), and Cherokee 13 & 19 Jan (JM), and up to 4 at Sooner L., Noble 7 Jan-19 Feb (MJ, JWA). Best counts of Common Goldeneyes were 1000 in Pawnee, OK 19 Feb (JWA) and 700 in Cowley, KS 23 Dec (MT). Very rare in the Region, Barrow’s Goldeneyes made a grand appearance, with singles in Alfalfa, OK 14 Dec (GK), Scotts Bluff, NE 15 Dec (AK), Woodward, OK 2 Jan (JW), Ellsworth, KS 6 Jan (DG, JMa), Leavenworth, KS 14 Jan (DF), Lincoln, NE 23 Jan (TJW), Sedgwick, KS 9 Feb (PJ), and Pawnee and Noble, OK 19 Feb (JWA).

Lake Tenkiller, Sequoyah and Cherokee, OK hosted up to 4 Red-throated Loons 20 Dec and 8 Feb (JWA), up to 5 Pacific Loons 20 Dec and 4-8 Feb (JWA, JM et al.), and 159 Common Loons and 161 Horned Grebes 20 Dec (JWA). Rare into winter and usually limited to the s. part of the Region, 2 Eared Grebes were in Oklahoma: singles at Red Slough 4-27 Dec (DA, PM) and L. Tenkiller, Cherokee 8 Feb (JWA, JL). Hardy Western Grebes were at L. McConaughy 28-29 Dec (SJD), and in Payne, OK 3-6 Feb (TO). A Brown Pelican enlivened Alfalfa, OK 5 Jan (JWA, EBe). Equally surprising for midwinter were as many as 3 Anhingas at Red Slough through Dec, with one female lingering until 15 Jan (DA, PM). A few Great Egrets now winter in

Oklahoma, and this season there was one in Canadian 23 Jan (MJ) and 2 in Oklahoma 27 Jan and 7 Feb (JW); up to 20 were in McCurtain 6 Dec, with one remaining until 19 Feb (DA, PM, BH). Other lingering or wintering wading birds were 6 Cattle Egrets in McCurtain, OK 27 Dec (DA, fide BH), one Black-crowned Night-Heron at Red Slough 8 Jan (DA, PM), 4 Plegadis ibis at Red Slough until 19 Feb (DA, PM), and up to 50 Plegadis identified as White-faced Ibis at Hackberry 9-21 Feb (K&SM, JTa). Eighty White Ibis at Red Slough 6 Dec declined to 48 on 22 Jan, and 6 remained there 19 Feb (DA). An Osprey in Johnston, OK 13 Feb (DW) was another northerly vagrant. Only one Northern Goshawk was reported, an imm. in Cedar, NE 18 Feb (MB). Easterly were a Ferruginous Hawk in Tulsa, OK 16 Feb (BC), single Golden Eagles at Red Slough 22 Jan-28 Feb (DA) and in Osage, OK 10 Feb (CB), and a Prairie Falcon at Red Slough 22 Jan (DA). In recent years, sightings of Merlins have become routine in the n. and w. parts of the Region; they were “easy to find” in Rush and Pawnee, KS (SS) this season.



These Long-billed Curlews were a complete surprise 9 February 2008 at Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, Tillman County, Oklahoma, where they apparently spent the winter. Photograph by Lou Truex.

“City” Peregrine Falcons remain on territory year-round; mid-winter sightings were routine in Lincoln, NE (JGJ, TEL) and Tulsa, OK (JWA).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Yellow Rail was at Red Slough 15 Jan (DA). Virginia Rail, a more normal winter visitor, was noted n. to L. McConaughy (SJD) and in Sumner and Russell, KS (GY, MR, DK). Only occasional during winter, 5 Soras were in Russell, KS 21 Dec (MR, DK), with one at Red Slough through Jan (DA). Much more unexpected was a Common Moorhen at Red Slough 11 Dec (DA). Two Sandhill Cranes in McCurtain, OK 28 Jan (DA, TS) were early. Two Whooping Cranes at Cheyenne Bottoms 4-6 Dec (KGr) were moving southward in a rather leisurely fashion. Every winter, unexpected wintering shorebirds seem to be increasing in the Region. This season, 22 Long-billed Dowitchers were at Red Slough 4-11 Dec (DA, PM, BH, BuH), a tardy Spotted



One of two noted in the Southern Great Plains region in winter 2007-2008 was this adult Mew Gull at Kerr Dam, LeFlore County, Oklahoma 27 December. Photograph by Eric Beck.

Sandpiper was in *McCurtain*, OK 14 & 27 Dec (BH), up to 11 Greater Yellowlegs lingered n. to *Alfalfa*, OK 4-5 Jan (JWA, EBe, FS), 2 Western Sandpipers and as many as 17 Dunlins were at Salt Plains N.W.R., *Alfalfa*, OK 5 Jan (JWA, EBe, FS), and 2 Lesser Yellowlegs were at Red Slough 28 Feb (DA, BH). Hackberry hosted a most unexpected 51 Long-billed Curlews 21 Dec (L&MT), with 32 there 25 Dec (TC), and 8 birds remaining until 9 Feb (L&MT). Another curlew in *Kiowa*, OK 24 Feb (JTa) might have been an early migrant.

Gulls that were considered rare a few years ago are now being reported regularly. At least 13 species were found this season, among them a Laughing and a Franklin's Gull in *Riley*, KS 12-20 Jan (LJ, TCa, MR); perhaps the same ad. Little Gull in Oklahoma in *Tulsa* 5-8 Dec (SM et al.) and *Noble* 15 Jan (KG); and *Mew Gulls* in *Sequoyah*, OK 27-28 Dec (EBe et al.) and *Oklahoma*, OK 26 Jan (JAG). Among California Gulls this season were up to 14 at L. McConaughy, where regular, 27-29 Dec (SJD), and others in *Lancaster*, NE 9 Dec (JGJ), in *Sequoyah*, OK 31 Dec (M&MP et al.), in *Douglas*, KS 8 Jan (third-cycle; AM, TSw), plus an ad. there 24 Jan (MA), in *Tulsa* 13 Jan (TM), and in *Oklahoma* 14 & 19 Jan (MJ). A record winter count of Herring Gulls for Nebraska was established with 540 at Sutherland Res., *Lincoln* 30 Dec (SJD, JGJ, WRS). About 20 Thayer's Gulls, a good number for the Region, were reported this season (*fide* WRS, *fide* LM, *fide* JAG). Any Iceland Gull is newsworthy; first-cycle birds were seen in *Douglas*, KS 6 (DS, GP, MM) & 8 Jan (AM, TSw) and in *Sedgwick*, KS 9 Feb (PJ). At least 12 Lesser Black-backed and 9 Glaucous Gulls were reported. Great Black-backed Gulls, still a Regional rarity, included an ad. at L. McConaughy 15 Feb (MB) that possibly continued from this past fall and a first-cycle bird in *Sedgwick*, KS 18 Feb (PJ).

An exciting surprise was the appearance of Nebraska's 3rd Band-tailed Pigeon at *Ceresco*, *Lancaster* (D&LF). The bird was discovered around 15 Nov, but birders were not aware of

its presence until 19 Feb (*fide* KP, m.ob.); it remained until 2 Mar. Numbers of Eurasian Collared-Dove continue to increase; 1031 in *Scott*, KS 17 Dec (MO) furnished an amazing count. White-winged Doves too are increasing in much of Oklahoma and w. Kansas but remain localized; one was n. to *Scotts Bluff*, NE 2 Feb (BN). At the n. edge of their expanding range, 2 Inca Doves were in *Morton*, KS 29 Dec (SP) and 6 in *Barber*, KS 30 Dec (SR). Two Greater Roadrunners in *Pawnee*, KS 9 Feb (D&KK) were half way to Nebraska. The only Snowy Owls reported were 2 or 3 in Nebraska: a male in *Saunders* 26 Jan (JD) that may have moved 11 km away 23-24 Feb (TL, m.ob.), and an emaciated female picked up for rehabilitation in *Nemaha* 24 Feb (DL). Northern Saw-whet Owls winter in low numbers; the only reports received were singles in *Pawnee*, KS 14 Dec (StS) and at L. McConaughy 29 Dec (SJD). Lingered Rufous Hummingbirds included one that had been present in *Sedgwick*, KS "for a few months" through 11 Dec (TJ, ph. PG) and a female in *Pittsburg*, OK 1-



A casual species in the Southern Great Plains, this adult Little Gull graced Skiatook, Tulsa County, Oklahoma 5 December 2007. Photograph by Steve Metz.

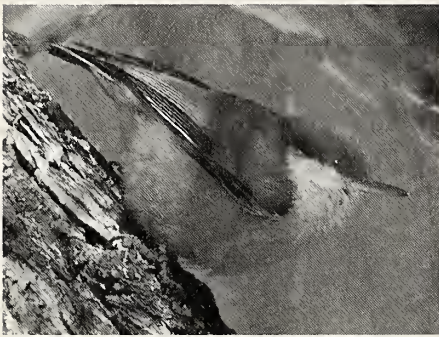
27 Jan (DBe). A Lewis's Woodpecker in *Hamilton*, KS 1 Jan (HA) was a rare local visitor. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Nance*, NE 15 Feb (WF) was n. and w. of its usual winter range. A female Ladder-backed Woodpecker in *Riley*, KS 9 Feb (CG) was probably the same bird that has been seen there occasionally since 29 Sep 2001 (*fide* LM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An Eastern Phoebe lingered in *Cherokee*, KS until 4 Dec (LH). Northern Shrikes were widespread, with one as far s. as *Alfalfa*, OK 5 Jan (PR, KW); 19 were tallied in w. Nebraska 27-30 Dec (SJD), including 11 on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (SJD), and 5 were in Kansas (SS, LJ, CO). A Loggerhead Shrike in *Dodge* 10 Jan (ph. JMu) furnished the 5th Jan record for Nebraska. A lone Clark's Nutcrack-

er in *Cimarron*, OK 28 Feb (DR) was quite unusual. The first Purple Martin returned to *McCurtain*, OK 19 Feb (DA). Early-arriving swallows included a Tree Swallow in *Lancaster*, NE 13 Feb (GH) that was record early by a month, 2 other Trees at Red Slough 19 Feb (DA), and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Red Slough 25 Feb (DA). Mountain Chickadees edged into w. portions of all three states, with a total of more than 20; best counts were 5 in *Grant*, KS 1-3 Dec (ML, MG, PJ) and 4 in *Texas*, OK 2 Dec (MF, GHa). Two Black-crested Titmice in *Greer*, OK 19 Jan (GK) were somewhat n. of their range. Bushtits made rare appearances, with 3 in *Texas*, OK 13 Dec (GK) and one in *Finney*, KS 5 Jan (ph. T&SS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in good numbers across the Region. The winter wanderings of the *nelsoni* subspecies of White-breasted Nuthatch are not well known in the Region; one in *Hamilton*, KS 12 Jan (SS) was quite a distance from the nearest breeding habitat. A good count of 35 Pygmy Nuthatches came from the Harrison, *Sioux*, NE C.B.C. 30 Dec (B&DW), while 2 in *Texas*, OK 2 Dec (GK, MF, GHa) were unexpected there.

Rock Wrens occur sporadically in e. Oklahoma during winter; one was in *Cherokee* 26 Jan (JWi). Winter Wrens edging their wintering range northward included one as far nw. as *Garfield*, NE 29 Dec (DH), with another in *Gage*, NE 26 Jan (JGJ). Other birds pushing the boundary of their wintering ranges were 2 Sedge Wrens in *Tulsa*, OK 17 Feb (TM), a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Adams*, NE 13 Jan (LR, RH), and 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Red Slough 4 Dec (DA, PM). Western Bluebirds are strangely a rarity in the Region, considering the proximity to mountain breeding areas. But this season was the exception, as there was an apparent incursion of bluebirds into *Cimarron*, OK that included a male 7 Dec (BKP, B&BS) and 6 or more there 30 Dec (SP). Townsend's Solitaires were widespread in the n. and w. parts of the Region; the best tally was 94 on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (*fide* SJD), and the southernmost solitaire was in *Oklahoma*, OK 1 Dec (JAG). A count of 100,000 American Robins in *McCurtain*, OK 2 Dec (BH) was eclipsed by an amazing 1,250,000 robins in *Payne*, OK 2 Feb (ES). The only Varied Thrush reported was a bright male at Omaha, NE 13-19 Dec (ph. DM). A Brown Thrasher wintered in *Lancaster*, NE (LG), unusual there, and another lingered in *Custer*, NE until 27 Dec (TH). Single Curve-billed Thrashers in *Wichita*, KS 3 Dec (PJ) and *Morton*, KS 29 Dec (SP) were good finds, while the long-staying (since 2002!) bird in se. *Sioux*, NE continues (AK, KD). Sprague's Pipits occur in se. Oklahoma during winter, but one in *Osage* 5 Jan (*fide*



Pygmy Nuthatches rarely make it into the Southern Great Plains; this bird 2 December 2007 in Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma was part of a modest eastward flight that began in autumn. Photograph by Steve Metz.

DWo) was a surprise, albeit in excellent tall-grass habitat. The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were in the extreme nw. part of the Region, a flock of 325 frequenting Harrison, Sioux 28-30 Dec (SJD, B&DW).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The usual cast of hardy warbler species was reported, with the exception of an extraordinary although not unprecedented Yellow-throated Warbler at Lincoln, Lancaster, NE 11 Dec (JC). Northerly Orange-crowned Warblers included singles in Barton, KS 19 Dec (MR) and Sedgwick, KS 1 Jan (JCa), and 2 in Sedgwick for two weeks through 20 Feb (BR). A Pine Warbler at a North Platte feeder 24 Dec (ph. LB) furnished the 7th Dec report for Nebraska. Less surprising were Pines wintering in Cleveland, OK (DKa) and 4 in the same general area 26 Jan (CW). Oklahoma hosted the only Common Yellowthroats, singles in Jackson 2 Dec (GK) and Sequoyah 19 Jan (AD), with 2 in Tillman 2 Feb (JV).

Several sparrows were found n. or w. of their usual winter haunts. Single Eastern Towhees were westerly in Barton, KS (MR) and Sumner, KS (GY), both 19 Dec. Chipping Sparrows were found in large numbers in Oklahoma, where they have become a regular wintering species. Among an array of northerly sparrows were a Chipping at Lincoln, NE 6-21 Jan (TEL) that provided the 2nd documented Jan report for the state, a Field Sparrow on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (SJD), 3 Lark Sparrows in Hughes, OK 1 Dec (CB, PF), a Savannah Sparrow in Custer, NE 26 Jan (TH), and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Lincoln, NE 21 Jan (TEL). Seven Harris's Sparrows on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (fide SJD) were w. of their usual range. Snow Buntings were found in good numbers in the n. Region, with the best count in Nebraska of 58 in Cass 1 Jan (GW). Several buntings made it s. into ne. Kansas, with 4 on the Lawrence C.B.C., Douglas 15 Dec (DS, DHe), 6 or more

in Jefferson 16 Dec (MG, AM), and one in Washington 18 Jan (DT). A tardy Yellow-headed Blackbird was in Osage, OK until 5 Jan (fide DWo). Rusty Blackbirds were in their best early-winter numbers in e. Nebraska in several years, with 40 reported (fide WRS). Five other Rusties were w. to L. McConaughy 29 Dec (fide SJD), and one was far w. to Morton, KS 3 Dec (PJ). A Brewer's Blackbird in Scotts Bluff, NE 15 Dec (fide AK) was unexpected at that location and date.

In contrast to the past 10 or so years, Purple Finches were widespread and numerous, especially in w. Nebraska where usually rare. Some 520 Purples were reported in Nebraska, among them 124 in Loup and Garfield 29 Dec (DH), 109 on the Quivira C.B.C. 5 Jan (MR), 33 at w. Pine Ridge, Sioux 28 Dec (SJD), 12 in Russell, KS 28 Dec (MR, DK), and one in Scotts Bluff, NE 15 Dec (fide AK). A few Cassin's Finches appeared in the w. Region, including 3 in Texas, OK 13 Dec (GK), a female there 3 Feb (JS), and 2 on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (fide SJD). Red Crossbills were conspicuous in w. Nebraska, with 4 in Comanche, OK 1 Dec (EBE) and 15 there 15 Dec (L&MT), 70 in Texas, OK 2 Dec (ME, GHa),



Rarely ever found in the Southern Great Plains, though occasionally just a stone's throw away, this Western Bluebird in northwestern Cimarron County, Oklahoma 30 December 2007 was part of a mini-invasion there. Photograph by Berlin Heck.

30 in Stanton, KS 3 Dec (PJ), up to 5 in Shawnee, KS 5 Dec-4 Jan (JH), up to 5 in Cleveland, OK 9-24 Dec (JAG), 14 in Russell, KS 13 Dec (MR), as many as 20 in Payne, OK 29 Dec-19 Jan (TO, m.ob.), 20 in Grant, KS 4 Jan (KH, SG), and up to 25 in Lancaster, NE 21 Jan-19 Feb (SRE, JG, LE). Common Redpolls were also more numerous than usual in Nebraska, with six reports, including 2 as far s. as Nuckolls late Dec-5 Jan (NF), and one farther s. at a McPherson, KS feeder 18-26 Jan (ph. KG). Pine Siskins were found in excellent numbers throughout the n. Region, as exemplified by 665 on the L. McConaughy C.B.C. 29 Dec (fide SJD) and 319 banded in Cowley,

KS Jan-Feb (MT). Strangely, few siskins were reported in Oklahoma. Lesser Goldfinches are rare in the Region, so one at Scottsbluff, NE 19 Feb (P&DD) and up to 2 at Lawton, OK 1 Jan-19 Feb (K&SM) were notable.

Cited observers (area editors in boldface): Mike Anderson, David Arbour, Henry Armknecht, James W. Arterburn (Oklahoma), David Beall (DBE), Eric Beck (EBE), Mike Blair (MBL), Lisa Bringewatt, Mark Brogie, Cyndie Browning, Ted Cable (TCa), Jeff Calhoun (JCa), Jennifer Cantrell, Bill Carrell, Vincent Cavaliere, Tom Curtis, Abigail Darrah, Kathy DeLara, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Phyllis & Dean Drawbaugh, Melinda Droege, Jennifer Dunavan, Larry Einemann, David Farmer, Nancy Fish, Dale & Lucy Fisher, William Flack, Phil Floyd, Max Fuller, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Linda Grdina, Cory Gregory, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Karl Grover (KGr), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Joe Gubanyi, Sam Guy, Tim Hajda, Jeff Hansen, Gerard Harbison, Robin Harding, Gary Harritt (GHa), Kellye Hart, Berlin Heck, Bucky Heck (BuH), Dave Heidt, Larry Herbert, David Herrin (DHe), Ed Houck, Teresa Jacobs, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Matthew Jung, George Kamp, Debbie Kaspari (DKa), Don & Kathy Kazmaier (D&KK), Alice Kenitz, Dave Klema, Thomas E. Labeledz, Mark Land, Denise Lewis, Jo Loyd (Oklahoma), Tucker Lutter, Brandon Magette, Jim Malcolm (JMa), Mick McHugh, Jeri McMahon (Oklahoma), Kurt & Sharon Meisenzahl (K&SM), Steve Metz, Paul Miliotis, Aaron Mitchell, Terry Mitchell, Lloyd Moore (Kansas), Jerry Mulliken (JMu), Deborah Murphy, Brent Nelson, Tim O'Connell, Marie Osterbuhr, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon K. Percival, Mark & Mary Peterson (M&MP), Galen Pittman, Kevin Poague, Mike Rader, Larry Randolph, Sarah Rehme (SRE), Paul Ribitzki, Dan Robinson, Ben Rogers, Stan Roth, Frank Sandford, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Steven Seltman (StS), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SS), Everett Short, W. Ross Silcock (Nebraska), Brian & Brad Steger (B&BS), John Sterling, Terry Stuart, Terry Swope (TSw), Jeanne Tanamachi (JTa), Jim Thayer (JTh), Dan Thalmann, Max Thompson, Lou & Mary Truex (L&MT), Jerry Vanbebber, Bruce & Donna Walgren (B&DW), T.J. Walker, Cynthia Whittier, Ken Williams, Jim Winner (JWi), Don Wolfe (DWo), Doug Wood, Gertrude Wood, Jimmy Woodard, Gene Young. ☺

Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73072
(j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net)
W. Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, Iowa 51653
(silcock@rosssilcock.com)



**Mark W. Lockwood
Randy Pinkston
Ron Weeks**

The western half of Texas witnessed a very dry winter season, with many observers commenting on the extremely dry conditions. Adding quantitative data to those sentiments, it was the third driest winter in the past 10 years at Big Bend National Park. Farther east, conditions were more favorable, although precipitation often came in heavy rainfall events that resulted in run-off and perhaps limiting the potential positive effects on habitats. Otherwise, the winter was mild overall, with very few strong cold fronts. The influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches noted in the fall continued through the season in much of the state, as did the montane irruption in the western Trans-Pecos. This phenomenon expanded eastward, with Mountain Chickadees appearing in the Panhandle and, much more impressively, Red Crossbills being seen across the northern half of the state east to the Pineywoods. An irruption from the south that is even more noteworthy was the movement of Green Jays into the Hill Country. These birds are known to wander into the northern Southern Texas Brush Country with some regularity but had never been known previously to penetrate the Balcones Escarpment. This season, small flocks of jays were documented at several locations. The bird of the season and the year—indeed, the bird of many years—was the White-crested Elaenia discovered at South Padre Island by Dan and Honey Jones. Although we are accustomed to austral overshoots such as Fork-tailed Flycatcher, discoveries like this one are among the most remarkable in birding.

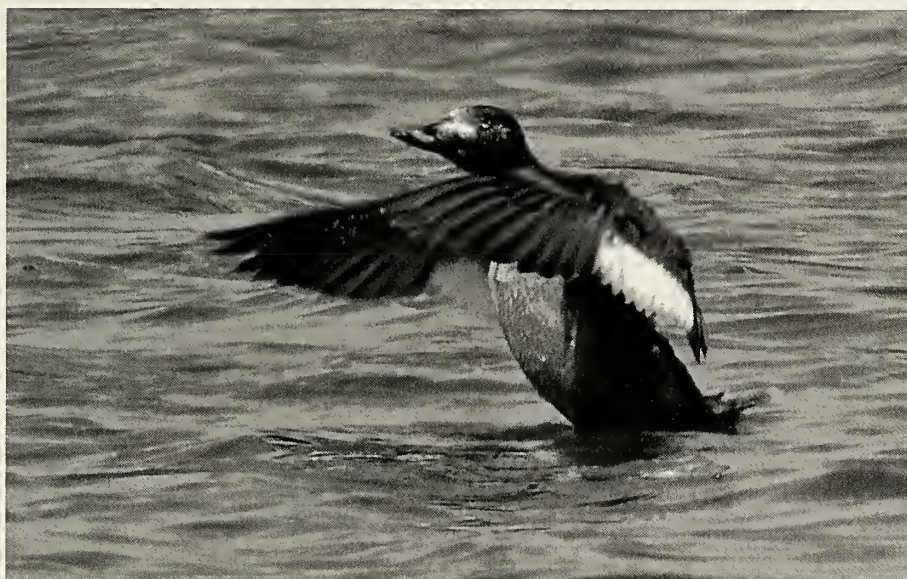
WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks wintered in small numbers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, L.R.G.V.) (MGU), and one was at

Herrmann Park, Harris 13 Jan+ (m.ob.). A Brant at Lubbock, Lubbock 7 Dec (PKi) presumably continued from Nov. Five Cackling Geese noted in e. Hidalgo 2 Jan (DJ) and 2 at Odessa, Ector 15 Feb (ML) were farther s. than expected. Two swans seen in flight over Fannin 11 Dec (†AH) were thought to be Trumpeter Swans, as was an imm. seen briefly at McNary Res., Hudspeth 15 Dec (BZ). Tundra Swans made a good showing in n.-cen. Texas, with 8 in Clay 29 Dec (LS) and 9 in Ellis 27 Jan–10 Feb (ph. MGL). Another Tundra was at Lubbock, Lubbock 12–19 Jan (ph. TS et al.). Up to 25 Muscovy Ducks wintered at Salineño, Starr (KE et al.) and represented the largest number ever reported in Texas. Wood Ducks are found regularly along the Rio Grande in Starr but are rare elsewhere in the L.R.G.V. This season, singles were noted at Sabal Palm, Cameron 6 Dec (DaB), Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Hidalgo 3 Jan (JDe), and Estero Llano Grande, Hidalgo 3 Jan (fide BM). The male Eurasian Wigeon at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso lingered until 15 Dec (ph. JSp), while another male enlivened L. Ray Hubbard, Dallas 16 Dec (ph. BGi, GC, BoS, PA). Four White-winged Scoters at Lubbock, Lubbock 27–29 Feb (QE, ph. m.ob.) represented a record number for the South Plains. Single White-winged at

mon Goldeneyes were seen at the s. extreme of their range, with 4 at Laguna Madre, Cameron 2 Jan (BM) and one at South Padre I., Cameron 12 Jan (ph. ScC). Up to 7 Masked Ducks wintered at King Ranch's Santa Gertrudis Division, Kleberg (JS, †PKu, ph. m.ob.).

A loon at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 14 Jan–mid-Feb was thought by some to be an Arctic Loon. Pacific Loons along the coast included singles at Texas City Dike, Galveston 18 Dec (JSt, DPe), Port O'Connor, Calhoun 26 Jan (BFr, PHo), and Offat's Bayou, Galveston 17 Feb+ (JO, DPe). A Least Grebe visited Rio Grande Village, Brewster 29 Dec (BH), while 2 at Nannie Stringfellow W.M.A., Brazoria 14 Dec (BO) represented the only report for the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.). A high count of 60 Horned Grebes came from L. Sam Rayburn, Angelina and Nacogdoches 27 Feb (DW). A raft of 600 Eared Grebes photographed at Texas City Dike, Galveston 28 Feb (JoK) was an impressive concentration. Due to a toxic algal bloom that devastated fish populations at Balmorhea L., Reeves, Aechmophorus grebes deserted the lake by the end of the season (ML). Eleven Western Grebes were at L. Buchanan, Llano 9 Dec (TFe, EC), with another at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 13 Dec (WM). A Clark's Grebe at White Riv-



A group of four White-winged Scoters at Lubbock, Lubbock County 27–29 (here 28) February 2008 was an unusual concentration for an inland location for Texas and a record count for the South Plains. Photograph by Gary Froehlich.

McNary Res., Hudspeth 4–6 Jan (BZ, CL), El Paso, El Paso 5 Jan (JKi), and Imperial Res., Pecos 23 Jan (BFr) constituted a bumper crop for the Trans-Pecos. The L. Pflugerville, Travis Black Scoter continued through 30 Dec (m.ob.). The only Long-tailed Duck reported was a female at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 18 Nov–29 Dec (m.ob.). Com-

er L., Crosby 28–29 Dec provided the 8th report for the South Plains (RK et al.). An imm. Brown Booby off the North Jetty at Port Bolivar, Galveston 11 Dec (†StL, OW) furnished the 4th report for the U.T.C. Unexpected Brown Pelicans were one at Greenbelt L., Donley 12 Jan (BP) and 2 at McNary Res., Hudspeth 15–23 Dec (BZ, JP).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The earliest U.T.C. report for Least Bittern had been 28 Feb, so 2 birds photographed at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20 Jan (GLa) and another at *Brazoria* N.W.R., *Brazoria* the same day (ph. BD) were shockingly early. However, these observations represented the beginning of a trend, as another Least was seen at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 13 Feb (JoK), and multiple birds were heard calling at *Brazoria* N.W.R., *Brazoria* 17 Feb (MB). Single American Bitterns at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 23 Dec (ST, m.ob.) and Anzalduas C.P., *Hidalgo* 30 Dec–7 Jan (DJ) were away from their normal haunts. Four Snowy Egrets at L. Arrowhead 19 Jan (ScL) represented a first winter report for *Clay*. A single Snowy Egret at *Lubbock*, *Lubbock* 1 Dec–10 Jan (PKi, BGi) made the 3rd winter in a row that this species been wintered on the South Plains. A Wood Stork over Rancho Viejo, *Cameron* 7 Jan (MP) was a rare sight. A report of 2 flamingos seen from the air 5–7 km s. of Baffin Bay, Laguna Madre, *Kenedy* 21 Feb (*fide* MGu) undoubtedly referred to the banded American Flamingo and the escaped Greater Flamingo that have wandered along the Texas coast for the past two years.

An Osprey at Turkey Track Ranch, *Hutchinson* 14 Dec (BP) represented a very rare Dec report for the Panhandle. A Hook-billed Kite at Arroyo City, *Cameron* 17 Feb (ph. BCL, SSo) furnished the first in Texas outside of *Hidalgo* and *Starr*. An amazingly early Swallow-tailed Kite graced Anzalduas C.P., *Hidalgo* 9 Feb (DDa). A subad. Bald Eagle at El Paso, *El Paso* 22 Feb (DAI) was notable, as was an ad. that plucked a gull off the water at White Rock L., *Dallas* 25 Dec (RR). An ad. Common Black-Hawk wintered at Salineño, *Starr* (KE, MGu et al.), and an ad. Harris's Hawk was found at White River L., *Crosby* 29 Dec (CLS, m.ob.). Imm. Broad-winged Hawks seemed to be all over the L.R.G.V. this winter, with at least 9 present. At least one could be found in each of the large tracts of protected habitats between Sabal Palm Sanctuary and Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* (*fide* MGu). Farther up the coast, a Broad-winged on the Galveston C.B.C. 18 Dec may have been the same imm. reported near Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* through 13 Feb (m.ob.). A Zone-tailed Hawk seen with Turkey Vultures at Nash Prairie, nw. *Brazoria* 1 Feb (DiB, DiH) provided a county first and the 2nd overall for the U.T.C. Ferruginous Hawks also made a good showing in the L.R.G.V., with one at McCook, *Hidalgo* 27 Dec (DJ) and 3 on the



Least Bitterns arrived on the Upper Texas Coast on the record-early date of 20 January 2008, when this individual was found at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, Brazoria County, and another was found at Quintana in the same county. Photograph by Bill Duke.

Cameron/Willacy line n. of Harlingen 26 Jan+ (BCL, MGu). There was a bumper crop of Golden Eagles on the U.T.C., with singles on the Bolivar Peninsula C.B.C., *Galveston* 22 Dec, in *Jefferson* 31 Dec (JW), on the Cypress Creek C.B.C. 1 Jan, and possibly the same bird near Fulshear, *Fort Bend* 26 Jan (AKI). A wayward released Aplomado Falcon was found near Pecos, *Pecos* 26 Feb (GW).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERS

Two Common Moorhens in e. *Kaufman* 25 Dec (GC) were a good find, as were moorhens at Kirby L., *Taylor* 30 Dec–13 Jan (CW, LBL) and in *Rusk* 10 Feb (PHa, HK, BCa). Two Whooping Cranes visited Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 17–18 Dec (DaD). Six Virginia Rails at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 23 Dec (BP, m.ob.) represented an unusually high number. Unseasonable were a Semipalmated Plover at L. Tyler, *Smith* 25 Dec (JC) and 2 at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 1 Jan (RR). An outstanding count of 210 Mountain Plovers was made at a sod farm near Jourdan, *Atascosa* 7 Feb (MGu, WS). The wintering population of Mountain Plovers in *Williamson* was elusive, and the maximum count obtained was just 15 birds 31 Dec (TFE). More impressive was a count of 85+ in w. *Bexar* 4 Jan (HRe, MiC). An American Avocet wintered at Keystone Heritage Park, *El Paso* (JP, m.ob.). Four Solitary Sandpipers were discov-

ered along a canal at w. El Paso, *El Paso* 1 Jan (ph. JP), with at least one remaining into Mar, providing a first Trans-Pecos wintering record. Up to 62 Long-billed Curlews wintered at *Lubbock*, *Lubbock* (CLS, m.ob., ph.), where they are rare but increasing. Very unexpected was a single Pectoral Sandpiper at Abilene W.T.P., *Callahan* 22 Dec–26 Jan (ph. CW, HT). Lingered Dunlins included 3 at L. Meredith, *Moore* 2 Dec (BP) and one at Abilene W.T.P., *Callahan* 1–8 Jan (ph. CW, HT). A single Western Sandpiper in *Tarrant* 15 Dec (CT, JJ) was noteworthy. A rarity for the L.R.G.V. was the American Woodcock at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 1 Dec (RM et al.).

Single Franklin's Gulls were at El Paso, *El Paso* 2–7 Dec (JP) and in *Harris* 24 Feb (ph. CTL). Little Gulls made their annual appearance in n. cen. Texas, with singles at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 13–29 Dec (†MWh), L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 16 Dec (ph. PA, †BGi, GC, BoS), L. Lavon, *Collin* 26 Dec (†GBR), and L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 15 Jan (†MWh). A Black-headed Gull brightened Big Creek L., *Delta* 17 Dec, and presumably the same bird was observed at Cooper L., *Delta* 27 Dec (†MWh). Another Black-headed Gull was at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 23 Dec (†GBR). A first-cycle Mew Gull was present in w. *Hudspeth* 15–23 Dec, where it was photographed at Fort Hancock Res. and McNary Res. (†JP). What was thought to potentially be another first-cycle Mew Gull that had been present during the fall season in El Paso, *El Paso* was seen again 7 Dec and 10 Feb (†JP). It was an excellent winter for California Gulls in *El Paso* and *Hudspeth*, with up to 6 reported at scattered sites (JP, BZ), while up to 5 others were in *Dallas*, *Denton*, and *Grayson* (GC, RR, CR). A second-cycle California Gull at L. Bob Sandlin 11 Dec likely furnished the first *Titus* record (ph. MWh), and one at Galveston's East Beach 17 Feb was the sole report along the U.T.C. (JO). Thayer's Gulls were at L. Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 24 Dec (RR) and in *Harris* 13–16 Feb (MR, CTL). High numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued on the U.T.C., with 20 in *Harris* 24 Feb (CTL). An ad. Lesser Black-backed at Round Rock 2–6 Jan was a first for *Williamson* (ph. TFE); at least 6 other Lesser Black-backed were reported in *Dallas* and *Tarrant* (GC, DPo, CR, JSi, MWh); and they have become almost annual in the El Paso area, where 2 were found this winter (ph. JP, BZ). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull in *Lubbock* 20–24 Feb (ph. BGi, m.ob.)

represented only a 3rd report for the South Plains. Accidental during winter, a Forster's Tern was a surprise at Fort Hancock Res. 15 Dec (JP). The Kirby L., Taylor Pomarine Jaeger continued through 4 Dec (m.ob.), while 2 other Pomarines at Balmorhea L., Reeves 16-25 Dec (ML et al.) were noteworthy.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Red-billed Pigeons were reported in good numbers this winter in the L.G.R.V. (BM). Two Band-tailed Pigeons were surprising just e. of the Pecos R. in Ward 23 Jan (BFR). A Common Ground-Dove was reported near L. Aquilla, Hill 10 Feb (GC), while a Ruddy Ground-Dove graced Anzalduas C.P., Hidalgo 8 Jan (DDa). A single Groove-billed Ani was at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 29 Dec-14 Jan (MF, m.ob.). Two Short-eared Owls at L. Pauline, Hardeman 4 Jan (LT, MT) were unexpected on the w. Rolling Plains. A Lesser Nighthawk was reported at High I., Galveston 21 Jan (WB), while a Common Nighthawk was observed at Missouri City, Fort Bend 31 Dec (BBo). Two Chuck-will's-widows and a Whip-poor-will were found on the Freeport C.B.C., Brazoria 16 Dec (MA, RW et al.). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird lingered in Brazos through 3 Dec (SW), and a record 10 Buff-bellieds were tallied on the Freeport C.B.C., Brazoria 16 Dec (m.ob.). Continuing the strong trend from the fall, Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were found at Fort Davis, Jeff Davis 22 Dec (ph. LHe) and 24 Dec-2 Jan (†CE, JG), with the latter bird found dead, providing the first specimen record for Texas. The Violet-crowned in Lubbock persisted through 17 Dec (ph. PSh). A Blue-throated Hummingbird continued sporadically at L. Jackson, Brazoria until 27 Feb (KL, RL, VK et al.). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds wintered in good numbers on the U.T.C. and in the L.R.G.V. (CB, MGu). Separate Calliope Hummingbirds were at Houston, Harris 9-12 Dec and 27 Jan-3 Feb (KK). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird wintered at w. Austin, Travis after its discovery in late Aug (JQ). Two other Broad-taileds were noted in Travis 23 (TE) & 24 Dec (EdF), while a 4th was near Utopia, Uvalde through 31 Dec (MH). The ad. male Allen's Hummingbird banded in Sep at Bentsen S.P. lingered through 19 Feb (MGu).

A Lewis's Woodpecker was present in n. Midland 1 Jan (DK), while a Red-headed Woodpecker was nearby at Midland 30 Dec-7



Bohemian Waxwing is casual at best in Texas, so every record is of great interest. This individual was with a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Gruver, Hansford County 14-17 (here 14) December 2007. Photograph by Brian Gibbons.

Jan (SSC). Part of a broader montane invasion involving several species, Acorn Woodpeckers were found at separate El Paso locations 28 Dec (DAL) and 4-10 Jan (JP, BZ). Red-naped Sapsuckers were noted in Kleberg 14 Dec (BFR), Bastrop 2-12 Jan (BFR), Coryell 24 Jan (ph. RK), and Kinble 25 Feb (EH, WH). A Hairy Woodpecker near Armand Bayou, Galveston 23 Dec (RH) was a rare sight on the U.T.C., while another Hairy in s. Clay 24 Feb (GC) provided a county first.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet in San Patricio 17 Feb (ph. JB) was well n. of its usual range. A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher was photographed in Jim Wells 3 Feb (TL). An apparent influx of Say's Phoebes was noted all season across cen. and n.-cen. Texas. Very rare in the Pineywoods was the male Vermilion Flycatcher in Marion 1 Dec (PHa, BCa,

HK); another at Killeen, Bell 15 Feb (TW) was also surprising. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Sabal Palm Grove, Cameron 23 Dec-27 Feb (DaB, m.ob.). Amazing was an Ash-throated Flycatcher at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 29 Dec-23 Jan (DHi, RR, m.ob.). The Great Kiskadee at Abilene, Taylor remained until 13 Jan (m.ob.). Also noteworthy were kiskadees at Granger L., Williamson 3 Jan (ph. TFe), Waco Wetlands, McLennan 23-24 Feb (JMu, FBu et al.), and Lubbock, Lubbock 27 Feb+ (QE, m.ob., ph.). Two Couch's Kingbirds lingered at Austin, Travis 4-15 Dec (HRu); an impressive 6 enlivened Damon, Brazoria 15 Dec (CB, OB); and one at w. El Paso 1-13 Jan (ph., audiotape, JP, m.ob.) furnished the first for El Paso. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers lingered widely, with the latest reports, possibly early migrants, coming from College Station, Brazos 9-10 Feb (BV) and Hornsby Bend, Travis 23 Feb (TFe).

It was a good season for Northern Shrikes in the Panhandle, with at least three well-documented reports (BP).

Unexpected was a White-eyed Vireo at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 9-17 Jan (BW, CL). Another White-eyed lingered in Hill through 12 Jan (DDC, DL, JMu, FBu), while one at Wright Patman L., Bowie 17 Feb (MD) was unusually early. A Bell's Vireo at Rio Grande Village 29 Dec (BH) may have been the park's first winter report. Another Bell's was photographed in Refugio 20 Dec (BFR, PHo). Plumbeous Vireos were reported on the Weslaco C.B.C., Hidalgo 29 Dec (MGu) and in Gonzales 4 Jan (BFR). Freeman studied a Cassin's Vireo at McKinney Roughs, Bastrop 14 Jan. A Hutton's Vireo made a rare appearance at El Paso 4 Jan (BZ). Green Jays invaded the Hill Country for the first time, with 5 near Leakey, Real in Jan (TFI), up to 15 near Bandera, Bandera all winter (BFo), and up to 6 near Concan, Uvalde in late Feb+ (BR). No Brown Jays were reported. Casual in the state, a Clark's Nutcracker enlivened sw. Carson 22 Feb+ (MS, ph. BP). Fish Crows continued

SA Sometimes it pays to check migrant traps on barrier islands even during winter. Dan and Honey Jones were paid royally for checking the Valley Land Fund Lot at South Padre I., Cameron 9 Feb when they found the bird of the season, a **White-crested Elaenia** (*Elaenia albiceps*). Not surprisingly, it took a little time to identify this most unexpected find from a confusing genus. However, Dan was able to get clear photographs, and that evening's Internet discussion led to an identification of White-crested Elaenia of the southernmost subspecies, *chilensis*. Additional documentation, including dozens of photographs and audio recordings, were made by the dozens of birders present 10 Feb. Despite a constant vigil the following day, the bird was never seen again. This bird provided a classic example of an austral migrant overshooting its wintering grounds, and it furnished a first record for the Northern Hemisphere. The White-crested Elaenia has been accepted by the T.B.R.C. as a first record for Texas.

their range expansion into *Hunt* (MWh) and *Harris* (MR, DA), while Chihuahuan Ravens continued their downward spiral in the w. L.R.G.V. (MGU).

A high count of 130 Tree Swallows came from L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 16 Dec (GC, BoS, BGi, PA). Early arriving Cliff Swallows included 8 at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 24 Feb (DDC, DL), 4 at nw. Houston, *Harris* 24 Feb (DrD), and one at Cullinan Park, *Fort Bend* 27 Feb (BGr). The winter range of Cave Swallow continues to move northward, with fair numbers found in *Travis*, *Williamson*, and *Bell* (m.ob.), and one at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 24 Feb (DDC, DL). A total of 42 Barn Swallows reported on the Bolivar Peninsula C.B.C., *Galveston* 22 Dec (m.ob.) was very high even for a coastal location. Barn Swallows appear to be increasing in the Trans-Pecos during winter, where they are rare to casual; 3 were at Fort Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 15 Dec (JP), with one or 2 at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 10-12 Jan (JSp).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS

Mountain Chickadees continued at El Paso through the season for the best influx there since winter 2000-2001, while one at *Esperanza*, *Hudspeth* 15 Dec (BZ) provided a county first. Mountain Chickadees were also present in the Panhandle, with one at *Texline*, *Dallam* 13 Dec (BGi), 4 there 30 Dec (BP), and 2 at *Stratford*, *Sherman* 14 Dec (BGi). Red-breasted Nuthatches continued their strong showing from the fall in the n. and w. parts of the Region, although numbers dwindled late in the season in many areas. Southward-wandering individuals included up to 4 along the *Frio R.*, *Live Oak* 14 Dec (WS) and one on the *Falcon C.B.C.*, *Starr* 22 Dec (JH). Winter Wrens at the fringes of their range included singles at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 15 Dec (BZ) and *Estero Llano Grande*, *Hidalgo* 12 Jan (JB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers found farther n. than expected were one in *Dallas* 8 Dec (GC, BoS) and 2 at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 26 Dec (DPo, SJ). A single Mountain Bluebird at Canyon L., *Comal* 26 Jan (ph. DPu et al.) was unexpected in a season when few birds were noted in the Hill Country. The same is true of a Townsend's Solitaire at Fort Hood, *Bell* 28 Jan (RK). A Wood Thrush at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* 11 Feb (LBa) was a good



Golden-crowned Sparrow is a less-than-annual visitor to Texas, but an adult is even a more extraordinary discovery. This bird was present near Robert Lee, Coke County 15 (here 16) December 2007 through the end of the February. Photograph by Erik Breden.

find away from the coast. Gray Catbirds appear to be increasing as a wintering species along the coast, as witnessed by an impressive 90 on the San Bernard C.B.C., *Brazoria* 14 Dec. Farther inland, noteworthy finds included singles at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 9-11 Jan (CL), in *Hunt* 23 Dec-17 Jan (MWh), and in *Marion* 2 Feb (JI). One of the more outstanding finds of the season was a Bohemian Waxwing at Gruver, *Hansford* 14-17 Dec (ph. BGi, DoH).

A Northern Parula was an unexpected visitor to Rio Grande Village 9 Jan-11 Feb (CL, m.ob.). An apparent Tropical Parula $\times$ Northern Parula hybrid was carefully studied at Austin 15 Dec+ (KA, ph. PSu, m.ob.). Several parulas found in Texas show varying characteristics suggesting hybrid origin, highlighting the need for close study of all parulas. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was briefly observed at Bastrop, *Bastrop* 3 Dec (BFr), while another brightened New Braunfels, *Comal* 30 Dec-5 Jan (DMu). A Townsend's Warbler at Pedernales Falls S.P., *Blanco* 2 Dec (ph. ByS et al.) provided a very rare Hill Country winter record. A lingering Blackburnian Warbler at Kleb Woods, *Harris* 5 Dec (FC) made a new U.T.C. late report, and a Yellow-throated Warbler in *Hopkins* 9-10 Jan (ph. MWh) provided the first documented winter record for n.-cen. Texas. A Prairie Warbler at San Mar-

cos, *Hays* 24 Jan (GL) was an excellent find for an inland location. A Western Palm Warbler at Rio Grande Village 11-17 Jan (CL, m.ob.) provided a rare Trans-Pecos winter report. A Palm Warbler at Commons Ford Park, *Travis* 26 Jan+ (ph. EdF et al.) was in the same area where one wintered during 2006-2007. Black-and-white Warblers were of note in the Pineywoods at separate *Nacogdoches* locations 16 Dec (*fide* DW) and 1 Jan (DW, RT). American Redstarts along the coastal plain included singles at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 15 Dec (StL) and 20 Jan (WR), on Kamey L., *Calhoun* 20 Dec (BFr, PHo), and at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 4 & 25 Jan (SH, GBu). A Prothonotary Warbler near Stockdale, *Wilson* 27 Jan-2 Feb (ph. CBu) was unexpected inland. A MacGillivray's Warbler enlivened Sabal Palm Sanctuary 4 Jan+ (KH). Wilson's Warblers of interest included single males at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 23 Dec (JP) and in *Tarrant* 26 Dec-16 Jan (ph. RC). A rather uncooperative Golden-crowned Warbler was at Progreso Lakes, *Hidalgo* 29 Dec-13 Jan (ph. MGU).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Summer Tanagers are casual in the Pineywoods during winter, so singles in *Nacogdoches* 28 Dec-19 Jan (MHW, DW, RT) and *Smith* 5 Feb (EIF) were noteworthy. A cooperative Green-tailed Towhee at Austin 20 Jan+ (ph. EI, m.ob.) was enjoyed by many local birders. A female Spotted Towhee wandered eastward to Katy Prairie, *Waller* 20 Jan (KH). Two American Tree Sparrows at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 11 Dec (AH) were s. of usual range, and Clay-colored Sparrows found farther n. than normal into cen. Texas included singles in *Tarrant* 15 Dec (BBu), near Elroy, *Travis* 15 Dec (ByS), at Fort Hood, *Coryell* 20 Dec (SSu), and Fort Hood, *Bell* 20 Dec (RK), plus 2 near Peaceful Springs, *Burnet* 2 Feb (ph. ByS). Black-throated Sparrows wandered n. to Magic Ridge, *Calhoun* 18 Dec-29 Jan (BFr, PHo, m.ob.) and near Gonzales, *Gonzales* 4 Jan (BFr). Sage Sparrows were noted well e. of their winter range, with 2 in s. *Andrews* 14 Feb (BFr) and one near Lenorah, *Martin* 7 Feb (NW). A highlight of the season was a cooperative ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow w. of Robert Lee, *Coke* 15 Dec+ (Ake, DK, JAd, NG, $\dagger$ m.ob.). A White-winged Junco was an outstanding find at Davis Mountains S.P., *Jeff*

Davis 24 Dec–8 Mar (ph., †MR, ShC, †BrS) and provided the 3rd record for the Trans-Pecos. Good counts of Lapland Longspurs were made in n.-cen. Texas, with 45–50 in *Fannin* 11 Dec (AH) and 250–300 in *Ellis* 3 Feb (GC).

In contrast to their status in most of Texas, Northern Cardinals are rare at El Paso, so one male at w. El Paso 29 Dec–2 Jan (JKi) was unexpected. Pyrrhuloxias wandered up the coast, with singles at Katy Prairie, *Harris* 12 Dec–13 Feb (m.ob.) and Quintana, *Brazoria* 26 Jan+ (ph. GLa). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted on the U.T.C. at Houston, *Harris* 6 Dec (GN) and w. Galveston I. 28 Feb (JKi, AA), while small numbers were noted at five or more L.R.G.V. locations. A female Blue Bunting was at Sabal Palm Sanctuary 9 Feb (†DaB). A male Indigo Bunting at Rio Grande Village 26 Feb (PHo) furnished a nice report for the park. Also of note was an Indigo at River Legacy Parks East, *Tarrant* 28 Jan (JSi). A Painted Bunting at Midland, *Midland* 18 Dec (DMe, JMe) provided a first winter report for that area. Accidental in the Panhandle during winter, a female Yellow-headed Blackbird was a surprise in *Roberts* 6 Feb (PSu). Two Rusty Blackbirds were noted near Matador, *Motley* 13 Jan (AH). A flock of 6 Brewer's Blackbirds wandered eastward to *Smith* 12 Jan (JDa), providing the first local report in several years. A Bronzed Cowbird was seen 16 Jan at El Paso (JP), where the species is considered accidental during winter. A count of 75 Bronzed Cowbirds at Houston, *Harris* 14 Jan (JR, WR) furnished an impressive total. Amazingly, Orchard Orioles were reported at four different L.R.G.V. locations this winter: *Estero Llano Grande*, *Hidalgo* into Dec (JB), *Quinta Mazatlan*, *Hidalgo* 10 Jan (LHo), *Edinburg Scenic Wetlands*, *Hidalgo* 20 Jan (DJ), and *Santa Ana N.W.R.*, *Hidalgo* 20 Jan–11 Feb (CaS). A male Bullock's Oriole was at El Paso, *El Paso* 6 Jan (JP). Audubon's Orioles continued their strong northward push, with individuals present at s. San Antonio, *Bexar* all season, highlighted by an incredible 29 on the C.B.C. 16 Dec (m.ob.). A male Baltimore Oriole hung around Rio Grande Village 14–21 Feb (JAl, m.ob.) and provided a first winter report for the park. Scott's Orioles also made news at Big Bend, with 2 males and one female at Telephone Canyon 31 Dec (TJe, CJ), and a first-year bird at Rio Grande Village 3 Jan (MF). More unexpected were a first-year female Scott's Oriole visiting a feeder in *Tarrant* 12–19 Jan (DSm, GC, GM) and a female at Falcon S.P., *Starr* 19 Jan (ph. FBa).

Purple Finches occurred in good numbers through much of e. Texas and westward

through parts of the Oaks and Prairies area. Notable was a single bird at Quanah, *Harde-man* 4 Jan (MWe). Cassin's Finches were noted in small numbers in the Trans-Pecos, while of more interest were 2 at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 16 Dec (AH, m.ob.) and at least 2 at Abilene S.P., *Taylor* 29 Dec–3 Feb (ph. CW, LP). Red Crossbills made a very good showing in the state overall, with numbers wintering at El Paso. Farther e., where crossbills are more sporadic in occurrence, very good numbers were present on the South Plains, with high counts of 11 near Idalou, *Lubbock* 21 Jan (AH, m.ob.) and 16 at Springlake, *Lamb* 16 Feb (AH). As many as 18 Red Crossbills were present at Buffalo Gap, *Taylor* 22 Dec–17 Feb (MaC, m.ob.), and 4 were nearby at Abilene S.P., *Taylor* 18 Feb (LP). In n.-cen. Texas, 6 other crossbills were at Austin College, *Grayson* 6 Dec (TR), with one in *Navarro* 10 Feb (LO) and 3 in *Clay* 24 Feb (GC). In the Pineywoods, up to 7 crossbills were at Cushing, *Nacogdoches* 28 Dec–2 Jan (DSc, DW, MHW). A Lesser Goldfinch was in *Hunt* 22 Feb (ph. MWh). Another highlight of the season, 6 Lawrence's Goldfinches were in the n. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 13 Dec (†TJo, FE).

Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): John Adams (JAd), Dan Allen (DAL), Dave Allen, Jan Allen (JAl), Ann Amsbury, Kenny Anderson, Peter Assmann, Mike Austin, Lynn Barber (Lba), Fran Bartle (FBa), Mark Bartosik, David Benn (DaB), Dick Benoit (DiB), Lorie Black (LBl), Bruce Bodson (BBo), Jim Booker, Gailon Brehm (GBr), Charlie Brower (CBr), Olivia Brower, Buck Buchanan (BBu), Frank Bumgardner (FBu), Winnie Burkett, Chester Burrier (CBu), Geoff Butcher (GBu), Eric Carpenter (Central Texas: 5604 Southwest Parkway #2222, Austin, Texas 78735. email: ecarpe@gmail.com), Barbara Cavin (BCa), Ray Chancellor, Bill Clark (BCl), Sheridan Coffey (ShC), Jessica Coleman, Scarlet Colley (ScC), Fred Collins, Greg Cook, Mark Cranford (MaC), Mike Creese (MiC), D. D. Currie (North-Central Texas: 2703 Colleen Dr., Arlington, TX 76016. email: ddbird-er@sbcglobal.net), David Dauphin (DDa), Jim Day (JDa), Javier DeLeon (JDe), Drew Dickert (DrD), Mike Dillon, Dan Dinkler (DaD), Bill Duke, Kim Eckert, Carol Edwards, Quinn Emmering, Ted Eubanks, Fred Evans, Ed Fair (EdF), Elizabeth Farley (ELF), Tim Fennell (TFe), Mark Flippo, Trudy Florence (TFI), Bettie Ford (BFo), Brush Freeman (BFR), Bert Frenz (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), John Gee, Brian Gibbons (BGi), Malcolm Glaspy (MGI), Bernd Gravenstein (BGr), Noel Gregston, Mary Gustafson

(MGU), Jim Hailey, Bryan Hale, Peggy Harding (PHa), Ellie Harrington, Warren Harrington, Ken Hartman, Susan Heath, Linda Hedges (LHe), Mitch Heindel, Anthony Hewetson (Northwest Texas: 4407 3sixth St., Lubbock TX 79414. email: terrverts@yahoo.com), Derek Hill (DHl), Petra Hockey (PHo), Richard Houck, Leslie Howland (LHo), Dorothy Hudson (DoH), Diane Humes (DiH), James Ingold, Eric Isley, Simone Jenion, Carolyn Jervis, Tom Jervis (TJe), Tom Johnson (TJo), Dan Jones, Jim Jones, Alvin Kelly (AKe), Donna Kelly, Joe Kennedy (JoK), Jim Kessler (JK), Keith Kingdon, Happy King, Vernon Kirby, John Kiseda (JKi), Phillip Kite (PKi), Alisa Kline (AKl), Rich Kostecke, Peggy Kuhn (PKu), Greg Lambeth, Tom Langschied, Greg Lavaty (GLa), Cin-Ty Lee (CTL), Dell Little, Mark Lockwood, Scotty Lofland (ScL), Kay Lookingbill, Robert Lookingbill, Stephan Lorenz (StL), Carl Lundblad, Brad McKinney, Don Merritt (DMe), Joann Merritt (JMe), Richard Messenger, Wayne Meyer, Gail Morris, John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Geoff Newton, John O'Brien, Lacey Ogburn, Brent Ortego, Laura Packer, Jim Paton (Trans-Pecos: 4325 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922. email: patonjn@netzero.net), Dick Peake (DPe), Barrett Pierce, Mel Pineda, David Powell (DPo), David Pueppke (DPu), Judy Quick, Bob Rasa, Ross Rasmussen, Martin Reid, Helen Rezek (HRe), Thomas Riecke, Jan Risser, Will Risser, Chris Runk, Homer Rushing (HRu), Laura Sare, Dennis Sheef (DSc), Monty Schoenhals, Willie Sekula (Southern Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@peoplepc.com), Patrick Shaw (PSh), Jim Sinclair, Jim Sipiora (JSi), David Smith (DSm), Scott Somershoe (SSo), Tom SoRelle, John Sproul (JSp), Sara St. Clair (SSC), Carl Sternberg (CaS), Jim Stevenson (JSt), Cliff Stogner (CIS), Bob Stone (BoS), Byron Stone (ByS), Scott Summers (SSu), Paul Sunby (PSu), Brady Surber (BrS), Carol Thompson, Susan Thompson, Heidi Trudell, Lou Truex, Mary Truex, Robert Truss, Betty Vermeire, Nick Wallisch, Ron Weeks (Upper Texas Coats: 110 Indian Warrior, L. Jackson, TX 77566. email: ronweeks@sbcglobal.net), Ben Weinstein, Mandi Welborn (MWe), Orion Weldon, Matt White (MWh), Tom Whiteway, John Whittle, Cole Wild, Shirley Wilkerson, Greer Willis, David Wolf, Mimi Hoppe Wolf, Barry Zimmer. ☼

Mark W. Lockwood, 402 East Harriet Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830, (mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)
Randy Pinkston, 3505 Hemlock Court Temple, Texas 76502, (drpinkston@sbcglobal.net)
Ron Weeks, 110 Indian Warrior L. Jackson, Texas 77566, (ronweeks@sbcglobal.net)

Colorado & Wyoming



Lawrence S. Semo
Tony Leukering
Bill Schmoker

The Region experienced a cold and wet winter, particularly in December and January. Colorado's statewide temperature ranking was below normal in December and much below normal in January. Wyoming nearly mirrored this pattern but was below normal in January. Precipitation rankings for both states were much above normal, except in Colorado during December, when precipitation was above normal. All extreme-drought classifications were finally lifted, although Colorado's Eastern Plains remained abnormally dry, and much of Wyoming's drought ratings ranked moderate to severe, particularly in the western and central portions of the state. Several irruptions continued from the autumn, and several new species began to appear in December. Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Pine Siskins descended onto the plains, while Bohemian Waxwings swept southward and Purple Finches moved in from the east. The bird lists for each state grew by one species, with additions of Streak-backed Oriole in Colorado and Harris's Hawk in Wyoming.

Abbreviations: Bonny (Bonny Res., Yuma); John Martin (John Martin Res., Bent). "West Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be presumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text. Because most rarities are seen by multiple observers, only the observers initially finding and/or identifying the bird are noted here.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

Most of the 14 reports of Greater White-front-

ed Geese were of late fall migrants in Dec or early spring migrants in Feb (m.ob.). A juv. Black Brant was a one-day wonder at Glasser Res., Broomfield 1 Dec (EZ). An imm. Mute Swan at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe 7-11 Feb (N. Erthal et al., BM) was considered a possible migrant from elsewhere and might represent a Colorado first of natural provenance (p.a.). Only one of six reports of Trumpeter Swans in Colorado was documented, that of 4 ads. at Browns Park N.W.R., Moffat 11-24 Jan (†DH, m.ob.). The 7 Tundra Swans s. of Thermopolis, Hot Springs, WY 2-16 Feb (EC, T. Axthelm) were photographed and represented an exceptionally large winter count. Two first-cycle Tundra Swans at Walker Pit, Douglas 22 Feb+ (T. Halverstadt, †GW) furnished the only one of seven Colorado reports this season that was submitted to the records committee.

The returning male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid was back for its 7th spring at Walden Ponds, Boulder 20 Feb+ (P. Plage). Cinnamon Teal arrived on time in Routt, La Plata, and Fremont 23 Feb. All three scoter species lingered into the season, an uncommon occurrence, with White-winged and Black Scoters tallied on the John Martin C.B.C. 18 Dec (DN, TRL, m.ob.). Long-tailed Ducks were also in evidence, with 3 on the John Martin C.B.C. 18 Dec (TRL, MP, m.ob.) and a more interesting single at Buffalo, Johnson, WY 16 Dec (B. Ostheimer). A peak of 170 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Carbondale, Garfield 3 Jan (DFI) furnished a new Colorado maximum. About 10 Hooded Mergansers, rare in Wyoming during winter, graced Bull Lake Res., Fremont 17 Jan (EC et al.).

Pacific Loons lingered into Dec in three counties along Colorado's Front Range: Denver, Jefferson, and Larimer. A Red-necked Grebe at John Martin 4-10 Dec (DN) provid-

ed well-birded Bent its overdue 2nd report, while another at Pueblo Res. 20 Dec was a one-day wonder (MP et al.). A new winter maximum was set for Eared Grebe with 690 at Pueblo Res. on the C.B.C. 15 Dec (TRL et al.); we remember when finding the species on that count was a highlight! Another Eared at Salida, Chaffee 20 Dec (TRL) was in the mts., where exceedingly rare during winter. The only wintering Clark's Grebes were with Westerns at Pueblo Res. (m.ob.). American White Pelicans lingered at John Martin into Dec and Pueblo Res. into Jan; the first 3 spring migrants were at John Martin 12 Feb (DN). Double-crested Cormorants have begun to winter at a few e. Colorado sites, but individuals at Elkhead Res., Moffat 1 Dec (FL)



Another "A List" gull from one of the Denver area's best larid magnets, this first-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull was photographed at Cherry Creek State Park, Arapahoe County, Colorado on 7 February 2008. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

and Highline Res., Mesa 25 Jan (LA) furnished extraordinary winter reports for the West Slope.

VULTURES THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

A Turkey Vulture 20 feet over the road at Alcovia, Natrona, WY 12 Jan (J. Cooper) was without precedent during winter in the state and virtually so for the Region. Northern

SA Birders visiting Pueblo Res., Pueblo 1 Jan were surprised and pleased to find a juv. Yellow-billed Loon (JK et al.). While the species has been recorded at the site quite a few times, the interesting aspect of this occurrence is that the reservoir is heavily birded throughout Dec, particularly on the days leading up to the local C.B.C. Thus, we are reasonably certain that the bird was not present earlier. Also arriving that day were a juv. Common Loon and an imm. male Surf Scoter. Two days later, another arrival of rare waterbirds graced the reservoir, with an ad. Red-throated Loon and a Red-necked Grebe being the highlights (both BKP). We suspect that water somewhere farther n. must have frozen and displaced these birds. Whatever the cause, Colorado's birders appreciated the event.

Goshawks staged a mini-incursion into the low foothills and plains of Colorado, as 9 were reported when one would be noteworthy. An ad. Harris's Hawk was nicely photographed during its stay at Riverton, *Natrona* 31 Oct–7 Dec (J. Tayler, B. Hargis); pending acceptance, it will provide Wyoming's first record. A wintering Red-tailed Hawk near Union Res. on the Boulder/Weld county line (B&IP) appeared to be referable to that nebulous "taxon" *krideri*, for which there are no firm Colorado records. Three Peregrine Falcons were reported this season, with the most interesting being one at Monte Vista N.W.R., *Rio Grande* 15 Dec (*vide* L. Clements) that furnished a very rare mountain winter report.

Soras were found at two sites away from known winter locales: 2 at Florence, *Fremont* 16 Dec–12 Jan (MP, BM) and one at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso* 20 Jan (C. Bucher). As many as 20 Sandhill Cranes were near Durango 8 Dec–2 Feb (*vide* JBy); if correct, the occurrence would probably account for *La Plata*'s first report of overwintering. "Highly unusual in winter" was a Killdeer at Meeker, *Rio Blanco* 11 Feb (N. Korte). Four Spotted Sandpipers were at Grand Junction, *Mesa* through 2 Jan (LA), and another was at Littleton, *Arapahoe* 15 Dec–8 Jan (JK); until a few years ago, the species was unheard of in the Region during winter. Single Greater Yellowlegs were at Miramonte Reservoir State Wildlife Area, *San Miguel* 1 Dec and Grand Junction 16 Dec (both *vide* CD), and as many as 4 were below John Martin dam 6–18 Dec (DN et al.). A Least Sandpiper at Fort Collins, *Larimer* 6 Jan–10 Feb (†N. Komar) was a great find and added to the mere handful of Colorado winter records. To round off the odd shorebird section, 2 Baird's Sandpipers just crept into the season at John Martin 1 Dec (DN).

The 112 Bonaparte's Gulls on the John Martin C.B.C. 18 Dec (TRL) established a new Colorado winter maximum. Also on the count, 3 Mew Gulls, an ad. and 2 first-cycle birds (TRL et al.), probably accounted for another state maximum; the ad. remained through 2 Jan, and at least one of the first-cycle birds wintered (BKP, VT). Colorado's West Slope finally scored its first Thayer's Gull (p.a.) with a first-cycle bird at Delta, *Delta* 28 Feb–4 Mar (DFi, A. Levantin). Probably accounting for yet another state high count, 10 Thayer's Gulls were at the Valmont Res. complex, *Boulder* 10 Feb (TF, SL), along with a first-cycle Iceland Gull 2–10 Feb (TF). Six e. Colorado counties claimed a total of 22 Lesser Black-backed Gulls for a better-than-average winter, while a total of 12 Glaucous Gulls at five sites was also better than average. The

only documented Great Black-backed Gulls (of 6 reported) were 2 ads. at Pueblo Res. through 26 Feb and the single ad. at John Martin 18 Dec (TRL, MP).

White-winged Doves continue their steady and somewhat meteoric colonization of Colorado, with this winter's big *Pueblo* concentration of 105 upping the state maximum for the 2nd straight year. A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird at Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 9 Dec (C. Bertrand) was incredibly late. A Lewis's Woodpecker on the Sundance C.B.C., *Crook*, WY 29 Dec (*vide* DF) was locally rare. A female Red-bellied Woodpecker at Sylvan Dale Ranch, *Larimer* 1–19 Jan (S. Rashid, †TRL)

was well west. Despite superlatives written about the sapsucker show in previous years, those years pale relative to this winter's showing. Ten each Williamson's and Yellow-bellieds were found in Colorado, with *Fremont* scoring 8 of the former and 4 of the latter, plus the only Red-naped Sapsucker (m.ob.); *El Paso* tallied the other 2 Williamson's and 2 Yellow-bellieds (m.ob.). Farther n., Wyoming hosted a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Casper, *Natrona* 16 Dec (B. Rickman, SB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

As many as 2 Black Phoebes wintered at Valco Ponds and nearby Pueblo Nature Center, *Pueblo*, with at least one surviving the season (m.ob.). Say's Phoebes linger more often in early winter in Colorado than do Blacks; this winter was no exception, as up to 12 Say's loitered into the season. Loggerhead Shrikes are typically rare during winter in ne. Colorado, so one seen on the Bonny C.B.C. 21 Dec (*vide* GW) was of interest. Despite the large plainsward flight of montane species, the only report of wayward Steller's Jays was of 2 at Riverton, *Fremont*, WY 1 Dec (*vide* DF). A Blue Jay at Craig, *Moffat* 15 Dec–2 Jan (FL) may have been one of the local possibly resident pair. Extralimital Western Scrub-Jays in Wyoming included one that wintered at Saratoga, *Fremont* (F. & J. Bergquist, DF) and one e. of Cheyenne 7 Jan (D. Adams) that represented the 4th report for *Laramie*. A few



As the sun was setting on a cold Bonny Reservoir Christmas Bird Count 21 December 2007, a very out-of-season Lark Bunting sporting an aberrant maxilla briefly paused alongside a rural road long enough for documentation. Only four have previously been tallied on Colorado Christmas counts. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

Clark's Nutcrackers spilled onto the Colorado plains, with singles at Pueblo West, *Pueblo* 3–4 Feb (M. Lockard), Denver, *Denver* 11 Feb (K. Rumery), Cañon City, *Fremont* 16 Feb (BK et al.), and e. Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 29 Feb (MP); 2 were at Pueblo after 15 Feb. Rare in extreme se. Colorado, a Black-capped Chickadee was at Lamar, *Prowers* 23 Feb (TF). The Mountain Chickadee incursion onto the plains continued, with numerous birds found in virtually every woodlot e. to the Kansas and Nebraska borders (m.ob.). Juniper Titmice are regular in Wyoming only in the extreme sw. corner, so one at Casper through 2 Jan (SB) was quite noteworthy and furnished a first for *Natrona*.

Bushtits mostly stayed home this winter, with the only plains report being of a few in *Arapahoe* (S. Kennedy, K. Corwin). Despite the massive influx to the plains of Red-breasted Nuthatches this past summer and fall, we received few reports; either observers didn't perceive continued observations to be important or the nuthatches moved out of the Region. Pygmy Nuthatches also pushed to the plains during autumn, with winter reports from as far e. as Rocky Ford, *Otero* (DN et al.) and Burlington, *Kit Carson* (m.ob.). A Carolina Wren continued at Cañon City all season (m.ob.). Three Winter Wrens, a typical showing, were reported in Colorado, singles at Cottonwood Canyon, *Las Animas* 2–7 Dec (PJ, GF), near Loveland, *Larimer* 3 Dec (CW),

SA Bohemian Waxwings staged perhaps their largest recorded irruption to Colorado, although birds were not as widespread as during the 2004–2005 flight. Virtually every berry in cities and towns in parts of the mountains and along the Front Range was picked clean—to the consternation of many a Townsend's Solitaire. The largest reported group was of 3025 birds on the Salida C.B.C., *Chaffee* 22 Dec (*vide* SY), but other impressive numbers were 2000 at Longmont, *Boulder* 29 Dec (BS) and 1390 on the Loveland C.B.C., *Larimer* 1 Jan (*vide* CK). Many flocks numbered more than 500, with a few flocks exceeding 1000; more than 13,000 birds overall were reported! Although concentrated along the Front Range, birds dispersed eastward to *Washington*, *Logan*, and *Kiowa*. In contrast, only two flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported during the season.

and at Cañon City 23 Jan (R. Miller). Locally late, a Mountain Bluebird stood on ice-covered L. Estes, *Larimer* 10 Dec (GM, S. Roederer). Hermit Thrushes are rare in Colorado during winter, although there have been several reports in recent years; reports this season included up to 3 at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca* and *Las Animas* 2-7 Dec (PJ, GF) and singles at Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area, *Fremont* 8 Feb (VT) and Glenwood Springs, *Garfield* 8 Feb (K. Giezantanner). A Varied Thrush at Steamboat Springs 26 Jan+ provided the first for *Routt* (J. & V. Serafy, TL), while one near Longmont, *Weld* 27 Feb-12 Apr (B&IP) was notable. Unusual winter mimids included a Gray Catbird at Montrose, *Montrose* until 27 Dec (*fide* CD), 9 Northern Mockingbirds in e. Colorado, and, even more interesting due to its West Slope location, *Fruita*, *Mesa* 19 Jan-20 Feb (CD).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Besides a smattering of Yellow-rumped Warblers, winter parulids in Colorado are an anomaly. Amazingly, six species were discovered, highlighted by a dead Tennessee Warbler at Fort Collins 5 Dec (L. Griffin). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Grand Junction 16 Dec (J. Cooper, LA) was exceptional both for its location and date. Observers hoping to find a male Pine Warbler returning for what would have been its 3rd winter at Denver West business center, *Jefferson* were surprised to find a female 2-31 Dec (MC, m.ob.), but this bird was outdone by an Orange-crowned Warbler in the same flock 2-8 Dec (MC). A Wilson's Warbler at the same location 8 Dec was also unusual. Tanagers tarried during the season as well. A stand-out on the Penrose C.B.C. was the female-plumaged *rubra* Summer Tanager that fed on old apples at Florence, *Fremont* 16-24 Dec (MP, †BM) and that provided a Colorado winter first. Fort Collins produced the 2nd local and state winter report of Scarlet Tanager 2 Dec (C. Laczek-Johnson). Lastly, Western Tanagers were observed at Glenwood Springs 15 Dec (VZ, m.ob.) and Loveland 4-9 Feb (CK). A Green-tailed Towhee w. of Cheyenne 12 Dec-21 Jan (J. McKee) provided the 5th winter report for Wyoming. A Spotted Towhee on the Sundance C.B.C., *Crook* 28 Dec was also quite rare seasonally (*fide* DF). A Green-tailed Towhee × Spotted Towhee hybrid enlivened Casper, *Natrona* through 24 Jan (K. Keffer, L. Keffer, CM).

Extremely rare during winter, Chipping Sparrows were near Loveland 9 Dec (B. Gib-



An unprecedented irruption of Purple Finches to Colorado's Eastern Plains seemed centered at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County, where 30 were recorded on the Christmas Bird Count on 21 December 2007 and at least 20 lingered through 2 February 2008 (here). Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

bons, †TRL) and at Eads, *Kiowa* 20 Jan (MP, B. Steger, SR). Single Field Sparrows tarried at John Martin 2 Dec (DN) and in *Pueblo* 15 Dec (BM). Although small numbers of Lark Sparrows winter in extreme se. Colorado, individuals near Loveland 4 Dec (CW) and at John Martin 18 Dec (S. Oswald) and Bonny 21 Dec (*fide* GW) were locally unseasonable. Although regular montane breeders, Slate-colored Fox Sparrows are very rare during winter and rarely venture onto the plains, so one at Colorado Springs 23 Dec (KP, CP) was doubly of interest. A White-throated Sparrow that wintered at an elevation of 2640 m in deep snow at Empire, *Clear Creek* (L. Modesitt) was, strangely enough, joined by 3 Harris's Sparrows (m.ob.). To round out the *Zonotrichia* show, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrows were found in Colorado this season, a juv. at the same site in Cañon City 29 Dec+

where one wintered this past year (D. Chartier) and singles near Navajo Reservation, *Archuleta* 27 Jan (†H. Morris) and at Colorado Springs 23 Feb (M. Wolf, BM). The only Snow Bunting reported in Colorado was at Rio Blanco, *Rio Blanco* 26 Dec (DH). As many as 22 Rusty Blackbirds were observed in e. Colorado, a fair showing (m.ob.). A Common Grackle on the Sundance C.B.C. 28 Dec (*fide* DF) was a rare Wyoming winterer.

A Bullock's Oriole that attempted to winter at Beulah, *Crook* through 20 Jan (B. Shepardson, m.ob.) furnished the 3rd winter report for Wyoming. The finch highlight of the season was the unprecedented incursion of Purple Finches onto the plains of both states. An unprecedented 63 were documented during the period, with 62 other reports submitted without details. Documented reports included one Purple at Cañon City 16-17 Dec (†CLW), one on the Sterling C.B.C., *Logan* 21 Dec (BK, H. Armknecht), up to 30 at Bonny 21 Dec+ (CLW, BS, SL et al.), one s. of Florence 25 Dec-2 Jan (P. Gould), 7 on the Sundance C.B.C. 28 Dec (*fide* DF), one at Casper 16 Jan-6 Feb (CM), one at Fountain, *El Paso* 10 Feb (C. Lee), and a window-kill at Colorado Springs 16 Feb (A. Plute). Prior to this season, there were only 33 accepted Colorado

reports. There was no significant push of Red Crossbills to the plains, although a few were seen in se. Colorado in *Bent* and *Otero* (both DN). Only one White-winged Crossbill was reported, at Fort Collins 5 Dec (CW). Eleven Common Redpolls were observed in Colorado, in *Rio Blanco* (DH, VZ), at Cañon City (CLW, BKP), Colorado City (D. Silverman), Sterling (*fide* GM), near Carlton, *Prowers* (VT), at Hayden, *Routt* (N. Merrill, TL), Pueblo Res. (BKP), and Colorado Springs (N. Neale). A Lesser Goldfinch at Laramie, *Albany* 2-3 Dec (D. Paulson) furnished a very rare winter report for Wyoming.

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following review species were reported from Colorado with no documentation: Trumpeter Swans in *Chaffee* and *Larimer* in Jan and in *Arapahoe*, *Bent*, and *Larimer* in Feb; Tundra

SA A bright orange bird visiting a feeder at the residence of Al and Connie Kogler of Loveland, CO 8 Dec-2 Jan proved to be the Region's first **Streak-backed Oriole**. Careful analysis suggested that the bird was an ad. female. More than 400 birders enjoyed viewing the oriole, which survived overnight lows to -5° F. (21° C) by subsisting on a diet of suet, jelly, and as many as 100 live mealworms a day. In addition to its acceptance by the Colorado B.R.C. as a first Colorado record, the oriole was tallied on the Longmont C.B.C. 1 Jan.

Swans in *Custer*, *Huerfano* (twice), and *Mesa* in Dec and in *La Plata* and *Moffat* in Jan; Mew Gull in *Boulder* in Dec; Iceland Gulls in *Arapahoe* and *Douglas* in Feb; Glaucous-winged Gull in *Arapahoe* in Feb; Great Black-backed Gulls in *Arapahoe*, *Boulder*, and *Larimer* in Feb; Pomarine Jaeger in *Arapahoe* in Dec; Inca Doves in *Larimer* and *Pueblo* in Dec; Varied Thrushes in *Delta* and *Douglas* in Dec; and Purple Finches in *Fremont*, *Larimer*, *Otero*, *Washington*, *Kit Carson*, and *Custer* in Dec, in *Morgan*, *Fremont*, and *Yuma* in Jan, and in *Yuma*, *Pueblo*, and *El Paso* in Feb.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Jim Beatty (sw. Colorado), Sophia Bogart, Mark Chavez, Eva Crane, Coen Dexter (w-cen. Colorado), Doug Faulkner (DF; Wyoming), Dick Filby (DFi), Ted Floyd, Greg Friesen, Dona Hilkey, Pete Janzen, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Connie Kogler, Steve Larson, Gloria & Jim Lawrence (Wyoming RBA), Tony R. Leukering, Tom Litteral, Forrest Luke (nw. Colorado), Gary Matthews, Bill Maynard, Terry McEneaney (Yellowstone), Chris Michelson (Casper, WY), Susan Patla (Jackson, WY), Brandon K. Percival

(se. Colorado), Mark Peterson, Bert Raynes (Jackson, WY), Bill Schmoker (Colorado Front Range), Larry Semo (ne. Colorado), Van Truan, Glenn Walbek (n-cen. Colorado), Cole Wild, Christopher L. Wood (CLW), Vic Zerbi. 🐾

Lawrence S. Semo, 9054 Dover Street
Westminster, Colorado 80021, (lsemow@swca.com)

Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 666, Brighton
Colorado 80601, (greatgrayowl@aol.com)

Bill Schmoker, 3381 Larkspur Drive
Longmont, Colorado 80503, (bill@schmoker.org)

Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

After several years of mild, dry winters, the 2007-2008 season was considerably different. Even though temperatures were not unusually cold, many locations reported above-average or even record levels of snow. Deep snow and low natural food availability at higher elevations likely induced higher-than-normal numbers of some mountain-dwelling bird species—notably Steller's Jays, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Mountain Chickadees—to make down-slope movements to lower valleys. Following the pattern of recent winters, finches were very scarce or absent.

Abbreviation: Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude, used in mapping bird distribution).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

The only Greater White-fronted Goose reported was one at Boise 1 Dec (RM), where rare during early winter. A total of 12 Cack-

ling Geese representing the subspecies *hutchinsii*, *minima*, and *taverneri* was identified variously in *Ada*, *Gooding*, and *Nez Perce*, ID. Nine Eurasian Wigeons were reported in Idaho, more than double the typical winter count. Especially rare during winter, a White-winged Scoter near Hagerman, ID 9-17 Feb (CW) was a winter first for Latilong 25. Reports of 3 Long-tailed Ducks came from two Idaho counties, representing a fairly typical winter count. Oddly, the only Pacific Loon report was of a grounded bird rescued from a busy intersection at Boise 23 Dec (HK). Any winter-season loon in Montana is unexpected, so a lingering Common Loon in Flathead 30 Dec (DC) was a great find and added to about 27 prior w. Montana reports.

Incredibly, Turkey Vultures were found in both states. One continued near Emigrant, MT until 2 Dec (JP) to provide a local winter first, while Idaho's 9th winter report was seen flying over Boise 6 Feb (HK). With fewer than 20 Idaho winter precedents, Ospreys near Hagerman 23 Dec (*fide* SH) and Boise 11 Jan (MC) were noteworthy. An extralimital Ferruginous Hawk added color to Lake, MT (m. ob.) all winter. The 4 Gyrfalcons reported Regionwide represent a fairly typical winter total.

The highlight of the season was a Common Moorhen near Nampa, ID 5 Dec–23 Feb (JH). A hardy American Coot that survived the winter near Bozeman, MT (LAH) added to only two previous local reports. A Greater Yellowlegs, irregular during winter, was an excellent find near Bruneau, ID 22 Dec (*fide*

LR). Spotted Sandpipers are also absent most winters, so one near Rexburg, ID 19-22 Dec (†DCI) furnished a first local winter record. The tally of rare winter gulls was better than average, with reports of 9 Mew, 11 Thayer's, 5 Glaucous-winged, and 5 Glaucous. If accepted, a subad. Lesser Black-backed Gull near Hagerman 10-23 Dec (†JC, CW) will represent Idaho's 5th.

Especially unexpected during winter was a Band-tailed Pigeon near Boise 29 Dec–3 Jan (CW) that added to only three prior winter reports. The Region's Christmas counts tallied a jaw-dropping 626 Eurasian Collared-Doves, which nearly tripled this past season's C.B.C.



Jim Holcomb discovered a Common Moorhen at Wilson Springs Ponds near Nampa, Idaho on 5 December 2007. It was quickly confirmed that same day by several other birders and continued to receive daily visits from birders for the duration of its stay through 23 (here 10) February 2008. Although there are six previous reports of the species in Idaho, none has been in winter and only one of these has been accepted by the Idaho Bird Records Committee. Photograph by Dave Lawrence.

total. A leucistic Great Gray Owl near Bozeman 20-28 Feb (CF) was a real showstopper. An Anna's Hummingbird, an irregular species during the season, wintered at Boise feeders (HK). A Red-naped Sapsucker in *Nez Perce* 19 Jan (TG) was quite unexpected; there are only four previous winter reports for n. Idaho.



Both rare and uniquely beautiful was this leucistic Great Gray Owl identified by Cheryl Farmer on 20 February 2008 near Bozeman, Montana. This ghostly pale bird remained in the area at least through 28 (here 25) February. *Photograph by Cheryl Farmer.*

coln's Sparrows, rare and very local during winter in s. Idaho, were more numerous than usual in *Elmore* and *Owyhee*. Even better was a Lincoln's in *Lake*, MT 16 Dec (DH), where there are very few winter reports. Although Swamp Sparrows are now annual in s. Idaho, 2 in *Owyhee* 22 Dec (JC) and one in *Elmore* 9-24 Feb (HK) were noteworthy. Rare *Zonotrichia* sparrows made a typical showing, with 4 White-throated and 10 Harris's Sparrows reported. If accepted, a McCown's Longspur spotted among a massive flock of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs in *Ada* 20-21 Jan (THK) will furnish the first report for Idaho.

Three Rusty Blackbirds, a species irregular in the Region, visited Warm Springs, MT 10-11 Dec (NK) and established a 2nd local winter report. Another Rusty was a celebrated discovery at Idaho Falls, ID 15 Dec (†SB), repre-

PASSERINES

Merely 8 Blue Jays in Idaho indicated a non-flight year. A late Tree Swallow at Nampa 6 Dec (HK) provided Idaho's first Dec occurrence and only its 3rd winter report. For a 2nd year, 2 extralimital Bewick's Wrens wintered near Missoula (TT). Seasonally rare bluebirds added color to both states: a hardy flock of Western Bluebirds near Hagerman, ID 9-22 Dec (CW) provided a first winter report at Latilong 25, and 2 Mountain Bluebirds photographed in *Lewis and Clark*, MT 19 Jan (CA) clinched a winter first for Latilong 28. News of a Gray Catbird in *Gallatin* 13 Jan (RI) was especially significant: there has been only one other winter precedent in w. Montana. Three American Pipits were found during the season in w. Montana (WT, LW), where fewer than 10 winter reports exist. Also irregular during winter was a Yellow-rumped Warbler near Missoula 7-19 Jan (LW).

The headline *Spizella* of the season was a Clay-colored Sparrow that wintered at Garden Valley, Boise (SF) and that provided the Region's first record of overwintering in the species. With only about eight previous winter reports in Idaho, 2 Vesper Sparrows in *Elmore* 9 Feb (HK) were a surprising find. Fox Sparrows at Salmon 15 Dec (HR) and in *Canyon* 26 Jan (JH) were notable, because they are very rare in Idaho during winter. Lin-

senting the 4th local winter report. Usually absent after the fall season, a tardy Common Grackle near Pocatello, ID 22 Dec (CT) headlined the local Christmas count. Idaho's Great-tailed Grackle reports were up from the recent past, with 2 males that wintered at Boise (HK) and a flock of 22 at Burley 22 Dec (RL). Especially surprising in a year with lackluster Common Redpoll numbers was a Hoary Redpoll documented near Moscow 15 Dec-23 Jan (†TG, †CS) that will provide Idaho's 2nd record if accepted.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Chad Adams, Steve Butterworth, **Kathleen Cameron** (Idaho), Jay Carlisle, Dan Casey (Montana), Darren Clark (DCI), Mark Collie, **Kas Dumroese** (Idaho), Cheryl Farmer, Sheri Foote, Terry Gray, Lou Ann Harris, Sarah Harris, Jim Holcomb, Denver Holt, Radd Icenoggle, Nate Kohler, **Harry Krueger** (Idaho), Ron Lynch, Robert Miller, **John Parker** (Montana), Matt Ragnlie, Larry Ridenhour, **Hadley Roberts** (Idaho), **Shirley Sturts** (Idaho), Charles Swift, Terry Toppins (Montana), Wayne Tree, **Chuck Trost** (Idaho), Cliff Weisse, Larry Weeks, Poo Wright-Pulliam (Idaho). 

David Trochlell, 2409 East N Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850, (dtrochlell@verizon.net)

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Robert H. Bunker
 100 Main Street, Suite 200 Colorado Springs, CO 80918



Sartor O. Williams III

Winter 2007-2008 was marked by colder temperatures over much of New Mexico and above-average snowfall in most mountain ranges. Several montane species were conspicuous in lowland areas, but wintering sparrows were scarce. Meanwhile, the background theme of species lingering late, overwintering north of historic range, and/or returning early continued.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); C.C.N.P. (Carlsbad Caverns N.P.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, Eddy).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

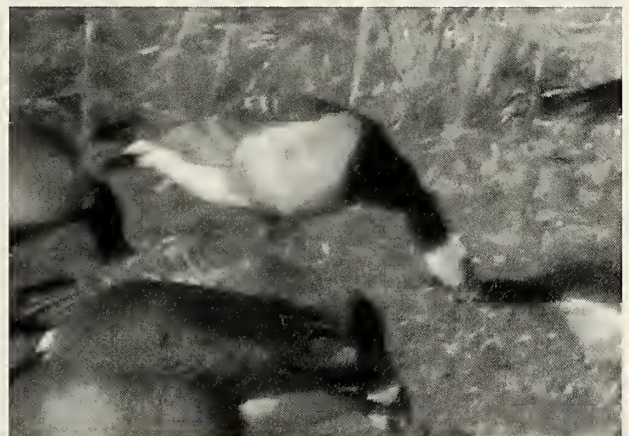
High counts for Greater White-fronted Goose were 7 each at Maxwell 7 Dec (DC), Clayton 19 Dec (CR), and Corrales 16 Dec (DK) and up to 9 in Albuquerque's South Valley 20 Dec-6 Jan (m.ob.). Noteworthy for the sw., one of 2 Snow Geese at Virden 26 Jan (JEP) was a blue morph; some 40,660 Snows along with a high 5080 Ross's were at Bosque 15 Dec (DH). An unbanded, free-flying Barnacle Goose was among Canadas and Cacklings in the Maxwell area 7 Dec-9 Feb (JEP, ph. DC, ph. NP, ph. MB, ph. JO, ph. JB, m.ob.); while the provenance of this bird may never be known with certainty, it arrived amidst a backdrop of spectacular increases among Barnacle Goose populations in recent decades. The 3 Trumpeter Swans that arrived at Farmington 8 Jan (ph. TR) have been revealed as offspring of a captive pair at Pagosa Springs, CO. A good Tundra Swan season found 2 at Maxwell 7 Dec-27 Feb (DC, m.ob.) and singles in Albuquerque's South Valley 21 Dec-4 Jan (m.ob.)

and near Radium Springs 3 Dec (MS, ph. JZ, ph. DG); likely Tundras were one at Cherry L., Mora and 4 at L.V.N.W.R. 12 Jan (MW) and one at Bosque 15 Dec (*vide* DH). A male Eurasian Wigeon at Clovis 15-18 Jan (WW, JEP) provided a Curry first; another male was at Caballo Dam 2 Feb (JEP, WW). Early Cinnamon Teal were 4 at Bosque 26 Jan (JO) and a male at Maxwell 27 Jan (DK). Greater Scaup where rarely found were singles at Sugarite S.P. 22 Dec (ph. DC) and Deming 8 Jan (LM). Always a treat, single Long-tailed Ducks were at Bosque 14-26 Dec (ph. A. Rube, D. Ligon, M. Miller, ph. JB) and Ute L. 2-9 Feb (ph. NP, JEP). Barrow's Goldeneye was again evident in Colfax, with at least one male and 2 females present in the Maxwell area 9 Dec-16 Feb (m.ob., ph. DC, ph. MB). A high 27 Hooded Mergansers were at Miami L. 7 Dec (ph. DC); noteworthy for Luna was one at Deming 20 Jan (LM). Surprising was a Lesser Prairie-Chicken in "downtown" Logan 17 Dec (ph. B. Bass). Unusual were 18 Scaled Quail at Zuni's Tekapo 15 Dec (CR). Seven Scaled Quail x Gambel's Quail hybrids were at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DG). A Pacific Loon at Cochiti L. 9-14 Dec (WH, WW) provided the lone report. Very rare in New Mexico, a Red-necked Grebe was described at Farmington L. 15 Dec (TR). High counts for wintering *Aechmophorus* grebes were 4100 at E.B.L. 15 Jan (MW) and 1185 at Caballo L. 29 Dec (BV). Late for the n. was an American White Pelican at Farmington 15 Dec (AN); a high winter count was 236 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (SW, TH), where 757 Double-crested Cormorants were also counted (SW, TH). Mid-winter American Bitterns were one at Bosque 19 Jan (RD) and 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Jan (JMH, JS). Numbers of Great Egrets continued to grow, including 60 at B.L.N.W.R. 14 Dec (SW), 34 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TH), and 73 at Six Mile Dam 22 Dec (SW, CC); smaller numbers persisted in s. New Mexico through Jan. Late Snowy Egrets were 2 at Sunland Park 9 Dec (CGL), 9 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TH), and 5 at Six Mile Dam 22 Dec (SW); notable for midwinter were 7 at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Jan and 6 there 6 Feb (JMH, JS). Increasing winter presence of White-faced Ibis was evidenced by 55 at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Jan and 40 there 23 Jan (JMH, JS). Historically unknown in winter in New Mexico, the recently discovered Turkey Vul-

ture roost at Roswell was occupied Dec-Feb (m.ob.), including at least 18 birds there 15 Jan (NC) and 27 on 16 Feb (JEP); elsewhere, singles were at R.G.N.C. 18 Jan (B. Dory) and 10 Feb (KG), near Deming 3 Jan (R. & C. Helbock), and near Hurley 3 Feb (SW).

KITES THROUGH DOVES

White-tailed Kite continued much in evidence in Hidalgo, s. Grant, Luna, and Doña Ana, including four pairs near Hachita 18 Dec (DG); one was n. to Bosque 11 Jan (JK) and 21 Feb (PB). Only 11 Bald Eagles were counted on E.B.L.-Caballo L. surveys 24 Jan (RD), down 88% from the 94 counted on similar surveys there in 2001. Getting an early start was a Harris's Hawk pair at a nest near Loving 22 Feb (JEP). Nicely documented was a Harlan's Hawk near Lordsburg 1 Dec (ph. D. Zimmerman). Merlins were found nearly statewide Dec-Feb, including on 16 of 32 C.B.C.s; noteworthy was a likely *suckleyi* at Zuni 13 Dec (JT). Scarce in New Mexico in Jan, single Peregrine Falcons were in the Organ Mts. 5 Jan (DG) and at Sunland Park 4 Jan (JEP). Lingering or wintering Virginia Rails in the n. included 4 at Cimarron 18 Dec (DC) and singles at Orilla Verde 22 Dec (RW), Española 23 Dec (BF), and Santa Fe 22 Dec (DE). A vocal Sora was n. to San Juan Pueblo 23 Dec (MM). A high 18 Snowy Plovers were near Loving 23 Dec (CC); 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 22 Feb (JMH) were the first spring



This Barnacle Goose arrived with Canadas and Cacklings in the Maxwell area of Colfax County, New Mexico, where present 7 (here 8) December 2007 through 9 February 2008. Photograph by Matt J. Baumann.

migrants. Noteworthy was a Killdeer n. to Clayton 19 Dec (JT); impressive were 130 at Caballo L. 26 Jan (DH). Maintaining a wintering presence were up to 12 Black-necked Stilts along the Rio Grande in the Anapra-Sunland Park area Dec-Feb (JNP, JEP, CGL). American Avocet wintered n. to Caballo L., where there were up to 3 on 29 Dec (DH), 26 Jan (DH), and 4 Feb (ph. DC); one



One of at least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls in New Mexico this season, this first-cycle bird at Sunland Park, Doña Ana County 23 February 2008 was probably the same individual present there 26 November through 1 December 2007; in addition, an adult was there 1 January 2008. Photograph by James N. Paton.

was at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP). North for the season was a Greater Yellowlegs at Springer L. 7 Jan (ph. DC). Late Long-billed Curlews were 33 near Separ 1 Dec (RS), 17 near Hermanas 5 Dec (DG), and 2 near Hachita 20 Dec (DG); early or wintering were 15 at Six Mile Dam and 5 near Otis 9 Feb (SW). A high 600 Least Sandpipers were at Caballo L. 26 Jan (DH). Dunlins were 2 at Caballo L. 4-5 Feb (ph. DC), one at Brantley L. 16 Jan (WW), and 3 at Loving 23 Dec (CC). Surprising was a Red Phalarope at Deming 8 Dec (ph. LM), the latest ever for New Mexico. Lingering Bonaparte's Gulls included 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 14 Dec (SW), 39 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TH), and 5 at Loving 23 Dec (CC); unusual were up to 2 at E.B.L. 2 Feb (JEP, ph. DC). A first-winter Mew Gull was at Sunland Park 1 Dec, 18 Jan, and 1 Feb (JEP, ph. JO); single ads. were at E.B.L. 5 & 19 Feb (ph. DC) and Caballo L. 28-29 Dec (ph. CGL). California Gulls were unusually prevalent, including a record 163 at Farmington 15 Dec (AN); others of note were 14 ads. at Eagle Nest 3 Dec (ph. DC), 2 ads. at Zuni 15 Dec (JT), and 2 ads. at Lordsburg 29 Dec (JEP), plus up to 5 at E.B.L. Dec-Feb (m.ob.), up to 2 at Caballo L. 28 Dec-5 Jan (CGL, JEP), and one at Brantley L. 16 Jan (RD). An ad. Thayer's Gull was at E.B.L. on various dates 19 Dec-23 Feb (m.ob., ph. CGL, ph. JB, ph. JO, ph. DC) and a first-cycle bird was there 25 Jan (ph. JO) and 18 Feb (MH). The first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull found at Sunland Park in Nov was there 1 Dec (JEP, WW, ph. JO), and presumably the same one was there 23 Feb (ph. JNP); an ad. there 1 Jan (ph. JNP) represented the 5th well-documented New Mexico record.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were found on 28 of 32 C.B.C.s, including a high 105 w. to Farmington 15 Dec (AN) and 219 at Silver City 16 Dec (R. Metz); 44 were in the snow at

2500 m at Eagle Nest 14 Dec (ph. DC). Four Inca Doves were n. to Gila Dec-Feb (CM), and up to 5 wintered at Silver City, where males were singing 28 Feb (EL). A Common Ground-Dove at Rodeo 28 Dec (DK) provided the only report. A Ruddy Ground-Dove at Gila in late Nov was documented in mid-Dec (ph. CM) and was still there 3 Feb; another Ruddy was at Silver City 7-11 Dec (EL).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Fueled by an abundant prey base, Short-eared Owls experienced a remarkable season, with reports of singles at Sevilleta N.W.R. 18 Dec (NC, SC), Broadview 9 Dec (CR), B.L.N.W.R. 22 Feb (JEP), Otero Mesa 1 Feb (RM), and Seven Rivers W.M.A. 27 Jan (SW), plus 2 each in the Tularosa Basin e. of Chaparral 12 Feb (RM) and in Eddy e. of Loving 9 Feb (SW), 4 on the Peloncillo C.B.C. 30 Dec (T. Godfrey), and a roost of 7 in the Tularosa Basin at the Coe lakebed, Doña Ana 9 Feb (RM). Noteworthy Long-eared Owl roosts numbered 14 birds at Cooke's Spring, Luna 3 Feb (RS), 13 at City of Rocks S.P. 20 Jan (J. Bird), and 8 e. of Loving 9 Feb (SW). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 31 Dec (ph. DG). Wintering White-throated Swifts were conspicuous in the s., including 150 at Sunland Park 1 Jan (MS, JZ), 30 near Hatch 30 Dec (DG), and 7 at Spring Canyon S.P., Florida Mts. 22 Jan (LM). A female Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Carlsbad in Jan (SW), the 4th consecutive winter for the species there. Up to 3 Anna's Hummingbirds were at Carlsbad through mid-Feb (SW), and at least one was at Radium Springs through 9 Feb (MS, JZ). Manzanita began blooming in the Peloncillo Mts. 12 Feb, and the first male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were noted there 13 & 15 Feb (CDL). Rufous Hummingbirds with details were a young male at Las Cruces 14-15 Dec (ph. R. Castetter) and an ad. male there 4-18 Jan (J. Douglas). Lewis's Woodpeckers beyond expected range were singles se. of Logan 15 Jan (WW) and in Thompson Canyon, Burro Mts. 31 Jan (R. Shantz). Noteworthy for the R.G.V. was a Red-headed Woodpecker along Las Animas Cr., Sierra 31 Dec (R. Ketchum) through 17 Feb (m.ob., ph. JO, ph.

NP). North to Colfax was an Acorn Woodpecker at Raton 25 Dec (DC) and up to 3 at Sugarite S.P. Dec-Feb (ph. DC, JEP). North of expected were a male and female Williamson's Sapsucker at Cimarron 5 Dec (ph. JD, ph. DC) and a Red-naped at Española 23 Dec (BF). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with details were a male at Cimarron 5 Dec (ph. JD, DC) and a female on Las Animas Cr. 23 Jan and 17 Feb (CGL, MS, DH). Far s. was a Downy Woodpecker at Percha 19 Jan (DG).

A remarkable 6 *Empidonax* flycatchers were found on the Gila C.B.C. 29 Dec (RS), and at least one continued in that area 18 Feb (RS), but species identity was uncertain. Well detailed were a vocal Hammond's Flycatcher at Percha on various dates 1 Dec-1 Feb (JEP, BV, DH) and single Dusksies at Bosque 2 & 24 Feb (DH) and R.S. 15 Dec (SW) and 17 Jan (WW). West were 2 Eastern Phoebe at Silver City 16 Dec (ph. HW); n. were 5 Say's at Farmington 15 Dec (AN), while early was one at Pojoaque 16 Feb (JB). A vocal Couch's Kingbird split its time between Sunland Park and adjacent El Paso 1-13 Jan (ph. JNP, v.r. JZ, m.ob., ph.); of nine well-documented New Mexico records of kingbirds of the Tropical/Couch's group, four are assignable to Couch's but none can be assigned with certainty to Tropical. Remarkably early was a Western Kingbird in the Animas Valley 17 Feb (A. Craig, N. Moore-Craig). One to 3 North-



One of two found in New Mexico this season, this Ruddy Ground-Dove was at Gila, Grant County from late November (here mid-December) 2007 through 3 February 2008. Photograph by Cecilia McNicoll.

ern Shrikes were at 10 Colfax sites Dec-Feb (m.ob.); farther s., one was near Romeroville, San Miguel 5 Jan (M. Ristow). Wintering Hutton's Vireos included singles at and near Virden 29 Dec (JEP), near Virden 26 Jan (JEP), at Spring Canyon S.P. 26 Dec (LM), and at City of Rocks S.P. 2 Feb (LM). Steller's Jay continued in evidence in the R.G.V. from Sandoval to Socorro, including up to 37 at Corrales 16 Dec (WH, DK) and 14 there 5 Feb (TF); 2 lingered at Socorro through Feb (PB). Unusual in the

lower R.G.V. was a Pinyon Jay at Las Palomas 29 Dec (BV). Surprising were 2 Clark's Nutcrackers in the Burro Mts. 11 Jan (DG). A Chihuahuan Raven was n. to Clayton 19 Dec (CR); 500 were roosting in mesquite s. of Deming 5 Dec (DG). Late was a Tree Swallow at Bosque 9 Dec (DH); several Northern Rough-wingeds lingered in *Doña Ana*, including one at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DG) and up to 8 at Sunland Park 1-6 Jan (MS, JZ, JNP, MH), where there was one 1 Feb (JEP). Unexpected were 14 Cave Swallows at two sites along the river at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP, MS, JZ); earliest returnees at C.C.N.P. arrived 11 Feb (SW), about average in recent years but about one month earlier than in the 1970s.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS

Noteworthy for the Jemez Mts. was a Black-capped Chickadee at Los Alamos 6 Jan (ph. S. Fetting, ph. T. Hodapp). Mountain Chickadee was conspicuous in foothill and lowland areas statewide, including one at Bosque Redondo 18 Jan (JEP), 11 at Socorro Dec-Feb (PB), 2 at Percha 19 Jan (DG), 5 at Mesilla Park 25 Dec (DG), one at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP), 12 in the Gila Valley 29 Dec (RS), and singles at Tyrone 3 Feb (EL) and Rodeo 28 Dec (DK). Remnants of the fall's Red-breasted Nuthatch incursion included 7 e. to Clayton 19 Dec (CR, ph. MM), 10 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TH), 11 in the Caballo L. area 29 Dec (BV), 6 at Mesilla Park 25 Dec (DG), and singles at Deming 8 Jan (WW) and 24 Feb (LM). Pygmy Nuthatches in atypical habitat included 2 in Albuquerque 2 Dec-29 Feb (C. Brozek), singles in se. Albuquerque 13 Jan (CP) and Bosque 26 Feb (S. Wilson), and 3 at Mesilla Park 16 Dec (ph. CGL). Late for the n. was a House Wren in Cimarron Canyon 18-19 Dec (ph. DC). The only Winter Wrens were one on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 4 Dec (DC) and 2 on the river n. of Pecos 30 Dec (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet continued in evidence in atypical habitat, including a high 12 at Roswell 15 Dec (SB), one at E.B.L. Dam 12 Jan (JEP, JO), up to 3 at Percha 9 Dec-12 Jan (m.ob.), and one to 2 near Radium Springs 6 Dec-25 Jan (CGL, MS, JZ); among the high counts were 12 in the Burro Mts. 28 Feb (DG), 12 near Silver City 20 Feb (LM), and 10 in the Organ Mts. 31 Dec (DG). Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were singles at Zuni's Blackrock 13 Dec (JT) and Albuquerque 16 Dec (NV); undetailed were 8 at Sevilleta N.W.R. 18 Dec (NC, SC) and 2 at Bosque 15 Dec (*fide* DH), both sites also reporting undetailed Black-tailed Gnatcatchers.

A Rufous-backed Robin along Las Animas Cr. w. of Caballo L. from 21 Jan into Mar (G. Bieber, ph. D. Lovitch, m.ob., ph.) furnished

the 2nd record for *Sierra*, the 8th for the R.G.V., and the 9th overall for New Mexico. Very late for the n. was a Hermit Thrush in Cimarron Canyon 29 Dec (ph. DC). Unexpected in winter in New Mexico, single Gray Catbirds were n. of Pecos 30 Dec (JK), at Bosque 10 Feb (J. LaFleur), and at Mesilla 7-15 Dec (CGL). Late were single Northern Mockingbirds at Zuni 15 Dec (JT) and Socorro 3-16 Dec (PB); wintering or early were singles at Ute L. 2 Feb (NP) and Conchas L. 9 Feb (JEP). Among several Brown Thrasher reports, one was w. to Corrales 12 Feb (ph. TF) and another was n. to Cimarron 15 Dec (ph. DC). European Starlings, noted on 31 of 32 C.B.C.s, included

10,000 at Sevilleta N.W.R. 18 Dec (NC, SC) and 5482 at Roswell 15 Dec (SB). Late for the n. was a Sprague's Pipit at Clayton 19 Dec (JT); one to 4 were at 10 locales across the s. in *Hidalgo*, s. *Grant*, *Luna*, *Otero*, and *Eddy* mid-Dec-mid-Feb (m.ob.), although the only Jan report was 4 on Otero Mesa 21 Jan (RM). Orange-crowned Warblers continue to winter in increasing numbers in s. New Mexico, including highs of 9 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DG) and 5 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TH); noteworthy were singles at Ruidoso 4 Jan (A. Powell) and Deming 1 Feb (LM); one that wintered at Carlsbad visited a hummingbird feeder (SW), while one at Radium Springs ate suet (MS, JZ). Warbler highlights were an ad. male Townsend's at Albuquerque 24 Dec (KG), a Palm Warbler of the nominate subspecies at Las Palomas 29 Dec (BV), and a female Wilson's Warbler at Santa Clara, *Grant* 16 Dec (LM). Single Common Yellowthroats were at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DG) and Tatum 15 Jan (WW).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Two Canyon Towhees persisted at Maxwell 11 Dec-22 Jan (ph. DC); 2 were e. to Grady, *Curry* 10 Dec (JO). High counts for Abert's Towhees were 8 at Virden 26 Jan (JEP) and 7 at Nichol's Canyon, *Grant* 28 Feb (RS); only 2 were found in the Cliff-Gila Valley 29 Dec (C. Hayes, HW). Sparrows were generally scarce, especially in s. grasslands and shrublands; noteworthy were single Chippings n. to Corrales 16 Dec (DK) and Albuquerque 26 Dec (NP), 3 Clay-colored in the Animas Valley 30



This vocal Couch's Kingbird at Sunland Park, Doña Ana County, New Mexico and adjacent El Paso, Texas 1-13 (here 2) January 2008 provided at least the fourth unequivocal Couch's for New Mexico, where Tropical Kingbird remains unverified. Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.

Dec (JB), a Brewer's n. to Zuni 12-15 Dec (JT, CR), and 2 Fields at C.C.N.P. 15 Dec (SW). Baird's Sparrows were 3 in the middle Animas Valley 30 Dec (DK, MH, CR, JT), 3 at two sites near Hachita 18 Dec (DG), and one on Otero Mesa 25 Jan (RM), all areas of more-or-less regular occurrence in recent years. One to 3 Fox Sparrows were at eight locales in *Bernalillo*, *Socorro*, *Sierra*, *Hidalgo*, *Doña Ana*, and *Eddy* (m.ob.). A Swamp Sparrow was n. to Springer L. 28 Feb (DC); scarce in *Santa Fe*, one was at La Cienega 26 Jan (JB). Single Harris's Sparrows were at Maxwell 20 Dec (MM), Cochiti 22 Dec (ph. MW), and w. of Datil 11 Dec-29 Feb (MJH, ph. J. Dunn). A White-winged Junco was banded at R.G.N.C. 19 Jan (L. Gorbet). Slate-colored Juncos were reported on 13 of 32 Christmas counts, including 18 at Zuni 15 Dec (JT), 17 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (N. Vaughn, R. Gracey), and 16 at Clayton 19 Dec (CR); one was w. to P.O. Canyon 6 Jan and later (CDL). Providing a winter first were one to 2 Yellow-eyed Juncos in the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 28 Dec-28 Feb (DG), including 2 on 11 Jan and one on 23 Jan (ph. DG). A Lapland Longspur was s. to E.B.L. 6 Jan (ph. JO); farther n., only small numbers of Laplands were in the Maxwell area 15 Dec-11 Jan (DC, JEP) and 2 were at Clayton 19 Dec (CR). Noteworthy Northern Cardinals were a male at Ute L. 2 Feb (NP), a male in Axle Canyon, Burro Mts. 21 Jan (*fide* DB), and a pair at Carlsbad Nov-Feb (SW).

An Eastern Meadowlark was at 1960 m on Owl Canyon Ridge, Peloncillo Mts. 23 Jan (CDL). Northerly Yellow-headed Blackbirds

were one at Las Vegas 5 Jan (DE), a female at Maxwell 28 Jan (DC), and a male there 9 Feb (ph. DC). Regular in the e. in recent years, a Rusty Blackbird was at Clayton 19 Dec (CR), and 2 were at Ute L. 8 Jan (ph. DC). A male Common Grackle persisted at Maxwell 23 Dec–19 Feb (ph. DC); 40 at Carlsbad 17 Feb (CR) was a large group for that date. Wintering Bronzed Cowbirds were at stock pens at Deming (WW) and Las Cruces (CGL, JEP, WW); undetailed were 12 n. to Roswell 15 Dec (SB). Over 17,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Dec (JMH, JS); 15 near Mayhill 5 Dec were following a flock of feeding Wild Turkeys (SW). Surprising was a female Bullock's Oriole at Mesilla Park 16 Dec (ph. CGL). The popular three-species rosy-finch flock at Sandia Crest was estimated at nearly 1000 birds Dec–Feb (*fide* MH); in contrast to past years, Brown-capped greatly outnumbered Blacks and Gray-heads (NC, SC). Other three-species rosy-finch flocks were 250 (mainly Gray-crowns) at Orilla Verde 29 Dec (RW), about 200 (mostly Brown-capped) at the Taos Ski Area 15 Feb (JEP), 63 (mostly Brown-capped) at Raton 27

Dec (DC), and at least 76 (mostly Brown-capped) at Eagle Nest 14 Dec (DC); elsewhere, about 65 Gray-crowns were at Lyden 16 Dec (ph. MM) and 4 Brown-capped were near Pecos 30 Dec (G. & K. Schiltz). Cassin's Finch was widespread and conspicuous, including on 15 of 32 C.B.C.s; among the reports were 2 e. to Mills Canyon 12 & 26 Feb (WW), 2 at Buckhorn Spring, San Andres Mts., Sierra 16 Jan (CGL), 6 w. of Datil 5 Jan (MJH), and singles at Spring Canyon S.P. 26 Dec (LM) and P.O. Canyon 17 Jan (CDL). Red Crossbills were largely confined to the south; among the few reports were 5 at Albuquerque 13 Jan (CP), 9 each at Socorro 14 Dec (DH) and Las Cruces 17 Dec (DG), 2 at the White Sands Missile Range golf course 19 Dec (CGL), and one to 2 in the Burro Mts. 11 Jan and 27–28 Feb (DG). The state-first Common Redpoll at El Prado, Taos continued through 2 Dec (MH, B. Neville) and was last seen 4 Dec (J. & A. Tuomey). Another active Lawrence's Goldfinch season produced one on the lower Gila R. at Virden 29 Dec (JEP) and 4 there 29 Feb (JEP), 4 in the Cliff–Gila Valley 29 Dec (HW) and up to 10 there 3 (SW) & 16 Feb

(M. Fugagli), and 6 e. to Caballo Dam 23 (ph. MB, ph. NP) & 28 Feb (R. Munro).

Initialed observers: Pat Basham, Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, David Beatty, Sherry Bixler, David Cleary, Nancy Cox, Steve Cox, Craig Cranston, Robert Doster, Jessica Duke, Deanna Einspahr, Bernard Foy, Kathy Granillo, David Griffin, M. Joan Hardie, David Hawksworth, Michael Hilchey, Tom Hines, William Howe, Jeff M. Howland, Jim Krakowski, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Cecilia McNicoll, Raymond Meyer, Alan Nelson, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, Cathy Pasterczyk, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Jeffery Sanchez, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, John Trochet, Brad Vaughn, Mark Watson, Robert Weber, Steve West, William Wittman, Hope Woodward, James Zabriskie. 🌐

Sartor O. Williams III, Museum of Southwestern Biology
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131
(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

The irruption of montane species that began during the fall continued, but numbers of birds observed overall were generally lower than expected. Observers noted relatively low numbers of insectivores and sparrows after December. Wide-

spread rains and an above-average snowpack increased water levels in reservoirs but did not greatly reduce drought conditions. Among the many bird highlights, the multiple reports of Cave Swallows stood out. In its third year, the Phoenix Area Urban Aquatic Bird Survey quantified a substantial increase in the number of birds wintering in that area. Highlights are included in this report; full details are available at <www.azfo.org/name/IndexphoenixUrban.html>.

GEESSE THROUGH CORMORANTS

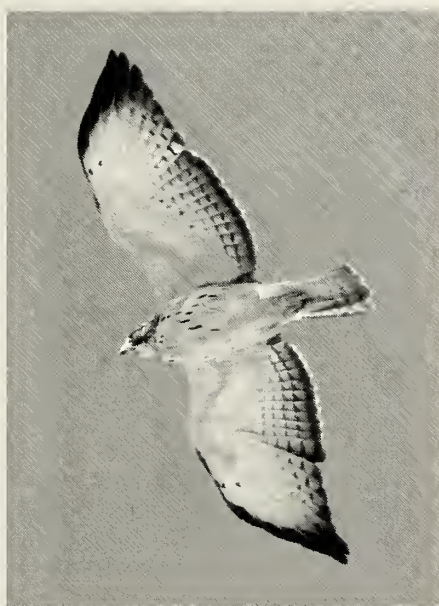
Greater White-fronted Geese were formerly rare winter visitors to Maricopa, but this season 22 were found (*fide* JW); up to 10 others were in the Sulfur Springs Valley (m.ob.), and 2 were at Flagstaff 13 Feb (DVP, LH). Three Emperor Geese at Havasu N.W.R. 28 Dec (†C. Bates et al.) were presumed escapees, as they wore bands not recognized by the Bird Banding Lab (*fide* MMS). White-cheeked geese continued to draw attention across the state. Reports of Cackling Geese exceeded numbers reported in previous years, with 14 individuals representing three subspecies included: singles at Ganado L. 2 Dec (†PK), Willcox 3 Dec (†TG, ph. MMS, vt. MP), St. David 19–24 Dec

(†D. Smyth, ph. SH), and Flagstaff 13 Feb (LH, †DVP); 2 or 3 at Scottsdale 29 Dec–8 Jan (TC); 3 at Sun Lakes 19 Jan (ph. TC); and 7 at Scottsdale 2 Feb (ph. PD, ph. J. P. Smith). At the other end of the size spectrum, 3 Giant Canada Geese at Scottsdale 22 Dec–2 Feb (ph. J.P. Smith, ph. PD; TC) provided Arizona's first record. The Phoenix Area Aquatic Bird Survey tallied 2735 Canada Geese 19 Jan (TC), reflecting the area's many lakes, golf courses, and remaining agricultural fields. It was another good winter for Tundra Swans, with singles at Willow L. 15 Dec (S. & S. Burk), Palo Verde 8 Feb+ (DP, ph. J. Burns), and along the Lower Colorado R., n. of Blythe 17 Feb (R. Higson), duos at Imperial N.W.R. 15 Dec (HD) and L. Havasu 11 Jan (D. Krueper, J. Ruth), and 4 at Gilbert Water Ranch 16 Dec (ph. PD, C. Marple). Three swans at Camp Verde 6–19 Jan were not identified despite photographs (ph. J. O'Callaghan).

Scottsdale again hosted several Eurasian Wigeons, with males seen 2 Dec–19 Jan (TC) and 12–26 Jan (†TC, ph. PD), and a continuing female through 8 Jan (ph. PD). The continuing male at Flagstaff was observed 6 Dec (T. Linda) and 27 Feb–7 Mar (ph. LH). American Wigeon × Eurasian Wigeon hybrids were

at Willcox 6 Dec+ (SS, ph. T. Johnson) and Scottsdale 19 Jan (ph. M. & D. Wall). A few Mexican Ducks were at Gilbert Water Ranch (MMo), where they have become regular. The Phoenix-Tres Rios C.B.C. reported 39 Blue-winged Teal 20 Dec (*fide* DP), a large number for winter. Greater Scaup is rare in Arizona away from the Colorado R., so 11 found statewide was a notable number. There was a good showing of scoters this winter. Reports of Surf Scoters were one at Patagonia L. 1-2 Dec (J. Mohlmann, JY), 4 at L. Havasu 8 Dec (KK, SS), with one there 10 Feb (B. Deppe), and 3 n. of Katherine Landing 9 Dec (KK, SS). Single White-winged Scoters were at L. Havasu 8 Dec (C. Babbitt, S. Stangeland), Saguaro L. 10 Jan (TC), and Bill Williams N.W.R., L. Havasu 27 Feb+ (ph. JR). The rarest of the scoters inland, a Black was n. of Katherine Landing 9 Dec (KK, †SS). Long-tailed Ducks are rare during winter, so singles were notable at upper L. Havasu 8 Dec (SS, KK), below Parker Dam 16 Dec-27 Feb (MP, ph. MMS), at Casa Grande 28 Dec-28 Jan (ph. T. Johnson et al.), and at Parker Dam 2 Jan-27 Feb (K. Blair, ph. KR). Common Goldeneyes were more numerous than average away from the Colorado R., with up to 42 at Greater Phoenix 19 Jan (*fide* TC) and smaller numbers elsewhere. At Parker Dam, numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes peaked at 10 (m.ob.), with 35 others on the Glen Canyon C.B.C. 3 Jan (*fide* J. Spence). Other waterfowl reported in higher numbers at Phoenix included 71 Hooded Mergansers and 1494 Common Mergansers 19 Jan (*fide* TC). Thirty Hoodeds at Imperial N.W.R. 16 Feb (HD) furnished a high number for the Lower Colorado River.

For the first time in Arizona, four loon species were observed in the same view, at Site 6, L. Havasu City 2 Feb (DP, CR, KR). A Red-throated Loon at Roper L. 2-8 Dec (KK, SS, ph. T. Godfrey, MMS, MP) was the first documented occurrence for se. Arizona, while another at L. Havasu 2 Feb+ (DP, CR, ph., †KR) was casual. At least 3 Pacific Loons were at L. Havasu 8 Dec+. The high count of Common Loons at L. Havasu was 15 on 8 Dec (KK, SS). Elsewhere, single Commons were at Flagstaff 2-6 Dec (J. Hildebrand) and Tempe Town L. 18-19 Jan (M. Weber). A juv. Yellow-billed Loon at L. Havasu 11 Jan+ (J. Richmond, †D. Krueper, †DP, ph. KR, O. Niehuis) furnished the 5th report for the Region. The only Horned Grebes reported away from the Colorado R. were singles at Bartlett Res. 11 Jan (TC) and Roosevelt L. 21 Jan (TC). Ad. Red-necked Grebes at n. L. Havasu 11 Jan (J. Ruth, †D. Krueper) and 2-9 Feb (CR, DP, ph. KR) and above Davis Dam 30 Jan (†TC) continued the recent trend of annual occurrence during



The range of Short-tailed Hawk extended into Arizona in 1999: summer records from the mountains have been annual since that year. This immature bird is the first to be documented in the lowlands in Arizona and the first to winter. It was present from its discovery on 11 February 2008 into April (here 5 April 2008). Photograph by Dave Stejskal.

winter. An American White Pelican was n. to Willow L. through 12 Dec (S. & S. Burk). Brown Pelicans are irregular during winter but were widespread in s. Arizona following strong winds in early Dec, with up to 14 (including 5 ads.) at lower L. Havasu 3-18 Dec (K. Blair, SS, KK et al.), 7 at Mitty L. 8 Dec (HD), and 12 others elsewhere 3 Dec-20 Jan (m.ob.). Cormorant populations continue to increase at Greater Phoenix, with an incredible 1357 Neotropics and 1056 Double-crests 19 Jan (*fide* TC). Elsewhere, 10 Neotropics at Gillespie Dam 8 Jan (PEL) and one at Saguaro L. 10 Jan (TC) were notable.

IBIS THROUGH FLICKERS

The 334 White-faced Ibis at Phoenix 19 Jan (*fide* TC) and 300 that wintered in the Arlington valley (MH, M. Rupp) reflect an ongoing increase in the wintering population. Up to 15 Black Vultures wintered at Douglas, which maintains their recent eastward range extension (A. Craig, N. Moore-Craig). Scattered Turkey Vultures were n. of their regular wintering areas in se. Arizona during Jan-Feb (m.ob.). Although considered casual during winter in se. Arizona, up to 7 Ospreys were seen in Dec (m.ob.). A roost of 44 White-tailed Kites at San Rafael Valley 22 Dec (G. Romig, R. van Zandt) surpassed all previous Arizona reports. An ad. Common Black-Hawk at Tubac 12 Feb was three weeks early (M. Brooks, MA). In addition to the resident population at Hassayampa River Preserve, reports

of Red-shouldered Hawks came from Granite Cr. 28 Nov-26 Jan (D. Moll, CST), Salt R. at 91st Avenue, Phoenix 16 Dec (ph., †TC), Queen Cr. 14 Feb (ph. J. Schultz), and Saint David 20-27 Feb (ph. C. Cathers), continuing the recent increase in reports. Gray Hawks have been lingering later into fall and winter in recent years, and unprecedented numbers were found this season: up to 4 wintered at Patagonia (T. Army, R. Baxter), and singles were found at Kino Springs through 7 Dec (SH), near Sonoita 28 Dec (C. Babbitt), and at Amado 17 Jan-23 Feb (PEL). While looking out the window of his Tucson home, Stejskal documented the first lowland and first winter Arizona record of Short-tailed Hawk 11 Feb+ (ph. DS), a light-morph imm. bird. Short-tails have been regular in the state since 1999. Rough-legged Hawks were reported in greater numbers than typical, with one at Casa Grande 16 Dec (ph. J. P. Smith), up to 3 at Mormon L. 28 Dec+ (T. Linda, K. Murphy, ph. G. Botello), up to 2 at Willow L. 30 Dec-23 Feb (S. Drown, B. Thomen, ph. S. Burk), and reports of 6 others. Crested Caracaras continued recent patterns, with up to 19 wintering at Santa Cruz Flats (DJ, M. Kehl) and wandering birds at Agua Linda, Santa Cruz 8 Dec (M. Brooks), Fort Huachuca 11-13 Dec (L. Hughes), along the upper San Pedro R. 11 Dec (R. Behrstock), at Benson S.T.P. 14 Dec (2; KK), at Rio Rico 15 Dec (MMA), and at Marana 21-23 Feb (3; W. Fritz, *fide* MA).

In their main Arizona wintering areas in the Sulfur Springs Valley, 36,708 Sandhill Cranes were counted 8 Jan (Arizona Game & Fish). Five Sandhills over Red Rock 5 Jan (R. Wright) were rare in Pinal, while 750 near Gillespie Dam 1 Feb (M. Kehl) provided a high count for Maricopa. Wintering Mountain Plover numbers peaked at 71 at Santa Cruz Flats, 40 near McNeal, and 47 near Kansas Settlement, Sulfur Springs Valley (m.ob.). Early migrants at Whitewater Draw W.A. included a Black-necked Stilt 7 Feb (SH) and 3 American Avocets 16 Feb (E. Wilson, G. Klingler). Arizona's 4th Northern Jacana continued at Casa Grande through the season. Up to 108 Greater Yellowlegs in flooded fields near Arlington 22-26 Dec (MH, TC, DP) increased to 190 by the Gila River C.B.C. 27 Dec (*fide* TC), with an additional 52 at Phoenix 19 Jan (*fide* TC) representing very large numbers for Arizona during winter. Up to 4 Lesser Yellowlegs were near Arlington 24 Dec-24 Jan (MH, TC, DP), and another was s. of Parker 2 Feb (KR, DP). Three Dunlins were at Palo Verde 11 Dec-16 Jan (MH). A Ruff near Arlington 22 Dec-26 Jan (MH, †DP, ph. TC) provided only the 2nd winter Arizona record (and 7th state report overall). Rare inland were 2 Red Phalaropes at

Whitewater Draw W.A. 8-9 Jan (ph. M. Skinner) and another at Willcox 8 Jan (ph. H. Hansen). A Franklin's Gull at Tempe 8-22 Dec (ph. R. & A. Thomas, ph. PD) may have furnished a first Arizona winter record. Arizona's 2nd Lesser Black-backed Gull at Katherine Landing, n. of Bullhead City 25 Feb (ph. BG) was found by the same observer as last year's report. Two Caspian Terns at Yuma 1-5 Jan (A. Borgard, HD) were casual during winter.

Ruddy Ground-Doves were hard to find this winter, with only 3 at Red Rock (J. Mohlmann, PEL, ph. B. Zimmer). Northern Saw-whet Owls are casual during winter in the lowlands, but moderate numbers were found this season, with singles at Topock Marsh 8 Dec (J. Alberti, S. Lewis), Organ Pipe Cactus N.M. 21 Dec (ph. B. Phillips), Santa Cruz Flats 28 Dec (ph. T. Johnson), Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P. 11-14 Jan (ph. R. Ditch), and Pasture Canyon 25 Jan (found dead; CL). Accidental during winter, Lesser Nighthawks enlivened Tucson 8 Dec (MA) and Marana 9 Dec (PEL). Equally unexpected, a few White-throated Swifts were over Granite Dells 4 Dec (CST). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds again lingered in small numbers, with one in the Mule Mts. 3 Dec (E. Wilson), up to 2 at Bisbee 9 Dec-1 Jan (M. Turisk), and one at Tucson 4-20 Feb that apparently moved between two locations (M. Bissontz, R. Hoyer). The first migrant Violet-crowned arrived at Patagonia 11 Feb (R. Baxter). Two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds lingered in the Huachuca Mts. into Dec (R. Behrstock, P. Sockness), while the first migrant arrived early in the Catalina Mts. 24 Feb (B. Bickel). Casual during winter, single Rufous Hummingbirds were at Tucson 3 Dec (SS), at the Huachuca Mts. 10 Dec (P. Sockness), and s. Santa Rita Mts. 21-22 Dec (S. Carnahan, C. Smith). Typical of small numbers during winter, duos of Elegant Trogons wintered at Patagonia L. (B. Adler, M. Brown) and Huachuca Canyon 5 Dec-17 Feb (A. Miller), and singles were found at lower Madera Canyon 21-31 Dec (J. Bock) and 8 Feb+ (R. Hoyer), and Blacktail Canyon, Huachuca Mts. 5 Jan (*vide* R. Weissler). Green Kingfisher numbers remained low, with lone birds above Patagonia L. 15 Dec (B. Adler, S. Haas) and at Arivaca Cienega 29 Dec+ (G. Jones, †DD) furnishing the sole reports. Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, about the recent average for the season. Casual winter visitors, apparent Red-breasted Sapsuckers were documented at Phoenix 15-20 Dec (ph., †TC) and Topock Marsh 20 Jan (L. Auzins, †T. Wurster). Downy Woodpeckers are seldom seen away from their nesting range in Arizona, so singles near Many Farms L. 3 Dec

(PK), at Prescott 19-21 Dec (M. Trevor, CST), and along the Verde R. at I-17 on 5 Jan (CL) were notable. The only Yellow-shafted Flicker reported was at Marana 26 Jan (H. Flores).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A few Greater Pewees continued from fall, but only one at Tubac 19 Jan lingered beyond mid-Dec (K. Graves, R. Freeman). A Hammond's Flycatcher along Lynx Cr. 3 Dec (B. Pranter, CST) was casual so far north. Eastern Phoebe are rare winter visitors, with three reports this season. Several Cassin's Kingbirds lingered into Dec in se. Arizona, with 2 continuing at Tucson into Feb (GHR). The Thick-billed Kingbird completed its 6th winter at Yuma (HD). Northern Shrikes winter in very small numbers in Arizona; this season, singles were at the traditional location sw. of Kayenta 8 Jan (CL), Narrow Canyon n. of Kayenta 13 Jan (CL, C. LaRue, R. Radd), Chinle Wash 14 Jan (CL, R. Radd), and Mormon L. 19 Jan-11 Mar (ph. LH, G. Botello). A White-eyed Vireo at Tubac 2 Dec-11 Mar (†T. Staudt, ph. DD) was the first to winter in Arizona. The Bell's Vireo at Gilbert Water Ranch was last reported 25 Jan (ph. B. Grice).

Few corvids joined in the fall/winter irruption. Two or 3 Western Scrub-Jays were found at Whitlow Dam 6-28 Dec (JB), and 2 American Crows were at Kansas Settlement 6 Feb (D. Beaudette). Tree Swallows were found at several sites in se. Arizona into and through Jan, with up to 10 at Marana 8 Dec-18 Jan (PEL et al.), 4 at Benson 12 Dec-19 Jan (KK et al.), 2 at Patagonia 7 Jan (MA), 5 at Casa Grande 16 Jan (PEL), and one at Marana 26 Jan (W. Russell). Single Violet-green Swallows were n. to Fort McDowell Reservation 9-15 Dec (J. Jones, TC), Benson 12-16 Dec (KK), and San Carlos L. 23 Dec (KK, DJ). North-bound Cliff Swallows arrived at Gilbert Water Ranch 11 Feb (MM), continuing a recent trend of early arrivals. Stunning was the discovery of Cave Swallows at widely separated locations: Casa Grande 9 Dec (†PEL, B. Carlson), Bill Williams Arm of L. Havasu (*La Paz* and *Mohave*) 2-4 Feb (†KR, DP, B. Gatlin; CR), and Gilbert Water Ranch 9-21 Feb (ph., †B. Grice, ph. O. Niehuis). There are only five previously accepted reports for Arizona, only one of these during winter. Barn Swallows continue to be seen in small numbers in s. Arizona during Dec/Jan, but few winter; 9 at Marana 9 Dec-18 Jan (PEL et al.) and up to 30 at Benson 12-16 Dec (KK et al.) were the high counts this season.

Reports of irrupting Red-breasted Nuthatches tapered off from the fall season, but birds were present in elevated numbers from

the lowlands to the mountains. Brown Creepers were seen in slightly elevated numbers in the lowlands. A House Wren at Oak Creek Canyon 14 Jan (LH) was locally rare. Only 2 Winter Wrens were reported, fewer than in recent winters. American Dippers are quite rare in s. Arizona during winter, so one along Sonoita Cr. 22 Dec-27 Jan (MMS, MP) was unexpected. Golden-crowned Kinglets also irrupted, with increased numbers in the lowlands and middle elevations. Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued at known locations along Sonoita Cr., at Chino and Montosa Canyons, the mouth of Madera Canyon, and Patagonia L. (m.ob.). Numbers of Rufous-backed Robins were reduced from this past winter, with singles this season at Huachuca Canyon through 16 Dec (A. Miller), Douglas 23 Dec+ (A. Moorehouse, ph. R. E. Webster), Patagonia 23-24 Dec (B. Smith, K. Huffstater, R. Baxter), and Catalina S.P. 26 Dec-23 Jan (ph., †S. Pike). A Varied Thrush at Rio Salado, Phoenix 24 Dec-28 Jan (ph. H. Bond) was reportedly joined by a 2nd bird for part of its stay. The elusive Aztec Thrush continuing from this past fall at upper Madera Canyon was finally documented 5-18 Jan (ph., †I. Webb et al.), providing only a 2nd winter record for Arizona. The only Gray Catbird report was at Dudleyville 5 Jan (DP, ph. KR). The Brown Thrasher at Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P. continued until 17 Feb (ph. R. Ditch). Two Le Conte's Thrashers were reported near San Carlos L. 23 Dec (KK, †DJ), far from the species' known range; further documentation is desirable.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

One of the rarer warblers in Arizona, a Golden-winged was at lower Madera Canyon 16-31 Dec (†J. Mooney, ph. DD, GHR). A Virginia's Warbler lingered at Ganado until the exceptionally late date of 2 Dec (P. Kline). Lucy's Warbler is casual after mid-Oct, so singles at Gilbert Water Ranch through 2 Dec (MM) and at Tucson 16 Dec (KK) and 8 Jan (MA) were notable. Presumably the continuing individual from fall, a Crescent-chested Warbler survived two snowstorms at upper Madera Canyon 25 Dec-13 Feb before disappearing (†K. Camburn; PEL; ph. O. Niehuis, H. Speicher). Five Northern Parulas were reported Dec-Jan, and 10 Yellow Warblers lingered into early winter in s. Arizona, but none remained after 28 Dec. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tubac 5 Dec (DT) was the only one reported. A Black-throated Blue Warbler wintering at Tucson 17 Jan+ (J. Douglas, ph. O. Niehuis) was the first to be found in Jan in se. Arizona. A Townsend's Warbler at Canyon de Chelly 4 Dec (PK) was the first winter report for the Navajo Indian Reservation. Acci-

dental during winter, a Hermit Warbler was in the Santa Rita Mts. 28 Dec (†L. Liese). A Palm Warbler at a feeder at Payson 1-4 Feb (ph. L. Estis; J. Estis) was at a high elevation for this casual winter visitor to Arizona. An above-average 6 Black-and-white Warblers and only 2 American Redstarts were reported. A Worm-eating Warbler at Hassayampa River Preserve 22 Feb (ph., †MH) may have attempted to winter. A Northern Waterthrush on the Salt/Verde C.B.C. 14 Dec (fide KR) provided one of few Arizona winter reports. Regular in small numbers during winter along streams in se. Arizona, Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Peña Blanca L. 2 Dec (MA et al.), Tubac 5 Dec–26 Jan (DT, †DD), upper San Pedro R. 8 Dec–21 Mar (MA, N. Gaines), and continuing above Patagonia L. through 12 Mar (m. ob.). A Common Yellowthroat at Prescott 31 Dec–8 Jan (D. Moll, CST) was casual there during winter. Wilson's Warblers have wintered in small numbers in recent years; 2 were in s. Arizona after Dec. Painted Redstarts rarely descend to the deserts during winter, but singles were at Boyce Thompson Arboretum 2-4 Jan (P. Norton, E. Hough) and at Tempe 19-21 Jan (L. Hurley, ph. PD).

Summer Tanagers are casual during winter, but up to 6 lingered at Tucson into Jan, 2 remained into Feb (m.ob.), and another was at Welton 26 Jan (B. Zimmer). A Western Tanager at Phoenix 20 Dec (TC) was also casual during winter. An apparent Canyon Towhee × Abert's Towhee hybrid was seen at Catalina S.P. 17-22 Jan (RH), where one was found in May 2006. A Clay-colored Sparrow at e. Tucson 15 Dec (G. Bieber) furnished a casual winter report. Sparse during winter in n. Arizona, 3 Savannah Sparrows at Mormon L. 19 Feb (LH, DVP) were likely early migrants. Up to 15 Slate-colored Fox Sparrows were found Regionwide, and an *altivagans* Fox Sparrow was at Hassayampa River Preserve 16-23 Dec (DVP et al., ph. LH). Regionwide, 11 White-throated Sparrows, 3 Harris's Sparrows, and 6 Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported. Unprecedented in Arizona, a *pugetensis* or *nuttalli* White-crowned Sparrow at Rio Salado, Phoenix 8-29 Dec (†MM) evaded photographers. Dark-eyed Juncos were more widespread in the lowlands than usual, including reports of the usually sedentary *dorsalis* scattered from Portal to Sedona. A White-winged Junco at Flagstaff 28 Jan (ph. CL) was extremely rare; this subspecies has appeared previously in Arizona only during irruptions in 1936-1937 and 2000-2001, with a few reports from 1971. Yellow-eyed Juncos seldom wander far from their breeding range, so singles at Pima Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts. 16 Dec (MA, RH, J. McCabe), in the Patagonia

Mts. 22 Jan (M. Brown), and at Prescott 6 Feb (M. Nicosia) were noteworthy. A Chestnut-collared Longspur at Mormon L. 19 Feb (DVP, LH) was away from known wintering areas. A Northern Cardinal at Prescott 4 Jan (R. Gregory, fide CST) and one Blue Grosbeak at lower Ash Canyon 20 Jan+ (†K. LeMay) were casual. A Lazuli Bunting was n. to Phoenix 19 Feb (ph. L. Shabberly), and the continuing Painted Bunting wintered at Rio Salado (m.ob.).

A Rusty Blackbird, a review species, was at Rio Salado 30 Dec–8 Jan (†TC, ph. H. Bond). Similarly, single Common Grackles were at e. Tucson 10-15 Dec (PEL, ph. C. D. Benesh) and Rio Salado 29 Dec (T. Gaskill). Hooded Orioles are casual during winter, usually at nectar feeders. One at Green Valley 5-11 Dec was joined by another 11 Dec (MMA), and another brightened Tucson 26 Feb (R. & R. Schroeder). A Streak-backed Oriole near Portal 30 Dec (ph. M. Hilchey) represented one of the s. subspecies and had abnormal toes, indicating captive provenance—all accepted Arizona reports are of subspecies *microstictus*. Accidental during winter, a Bullock's Oriole enlivened Green Valley 24 Dec (ph. J. Gilligan). Winter finches were seen in greater numbers than usual. There was a handful of Purple Finch reports, with documented sightings at Tucson 15-16 Dec (KK, †JY), Madera Canyon 22-23 Jan (2; DVP et al., †LH), and Flagstaff 2 Feb (ph. T. Linda). Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills irrupted into n. Arizona in large numbers and into s. lowlands and mountains in moderate numbers. Lawrence's Goldfinch numbers in s. Arizona declined through the season. Outside its more typical winter range, one goldfinch was at Kingman 17 Feb–5 Mar (ph. J. Porter), and up to 26 were at Prescott 1 Dec–5 Mar (ph. N. McMahon).

Contributors cited: Moez Ali, Jack Bartley, Troy Corman, Henry Detwiler, Pierre Deviche, Dick Dionne, Tony Godfrey, Lauren Harter, Stuart Healy, Melanie Herring, Rich Hoyer, Doug Jenness, Keith Kamper, Philip Kline, Chuck LaRue, Paul E. Lehman, Michael Marsden, Michael Moore, David vander Pluym, Molly Pollock, Dave Powell, Cindy Radamaker, Kurt Radamaker, Gary H. Rosenberg, Scott Schuette, Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Carl S. Tomoff (Prescott), Diane Touret, Janet Witzeman (Maricopa), John Yerger (Tucson Rare Bird Alert).

Mark M. Stevenson, 4201 E. Monte Vista Dr. #J207

Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554, (drbrdr@att.net);

Gary H. Rosenberg, P.O. Box 91856

Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856, (ghrosenberg@comcast.net)

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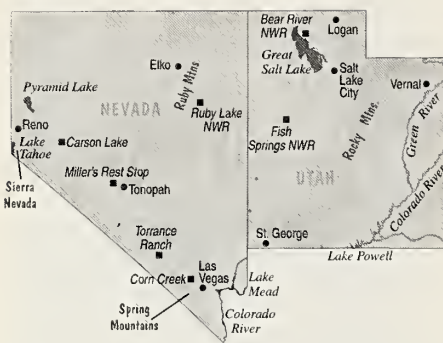
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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Temperatures were colder than average this winter throughout much of the Region. High levels of precipitation included much-needed snowpack at high elevations and should result in a good spring runoff and spring growing conditions. Several northern species were more abundant than usual this season, including Rough-legged Hawks and Bohemian Waxwings. There also was a significant movement of chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and other montane species into low-elevation areas of Utah and Nevada. Sightings of rare gulls were the highlight of the season, including Nevada's first documented Lesser Black-backed Gull. I thank Martin Meyers for providing the essay on the large, dark-backed gull that visited Virginia Lake in Reno.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., Nye, NV); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Corn Creek (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Three Trumpeter Swans lingered at Sand Hollow S.P., Washington UT 29 Dec+ (S&CS et al.), providing only the 2nd wintering report in s. Utah. Several Cackling Geese were reported in Washoe, NV and Cache, Davis, Salt L., and Utah, UT; the species apparently is a rare, regular visitor to the Region. Drake Eurasian Wigeons were reported from two Reno, Washoe NV locations 8 Jan (DS) and 6 Feb (KH et al.), and other drakes were in Utah at Provo, Utah 12 Jan (CN) and Clear Lake W.M.A., Millard 1 Mar (LZ, KW, PL). Three White-winged Scoters were at Walker L., Mineral, NV 27-29 Dec (TL, GS), and another was at L. Mohave, Clark, NV 8-25 Jan

(JBa, CR). Three first-winter Black Scoters were a surprise at L. Mohave, Clark, NV 25 Jan (JBa). A female Long-tailed Duck at Walker L., Mineral 27 Dec was the only one reported in Nevada (TL), and a flock of 7 wintered at Antelope I. (EL, J&KB et al.). A Pacific Loon visited Quail Creek S.P., Washington, UT 22-29 Jan (RF). A Red-necked Grebe at L. Mohave, Clark, NV 8-9 Jan (JBa) was a surprise. An out-of-season Turkey Vulture flew over Sparks, Washoe, NV 29 Jan (GS).

A report of a dark-morph Northern Harrier came from Farmington Bay 5 Feb (†JLi). At least 8 Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in Clark, Nye, and Washoe, NV, while singles in n. Utah at Ogden Nature Center, Weber 4 Dec-3 Jan (JR, KP et al.) and Farmington Bay 10-22 Feb (S&CS et al.) were more surprising. A Gyrfalcon was an exceptional yard bird for a Mill Creek, Salt Lake, UT resident 1 Dec (JLi, p.a.). Least Sandpipers, rarely observed wintering in the Region, were photographed at Farmington Bay 8 Feb (ph. BLS, JLi). Eighteen Dunlins found on the Pyramid Lake C.B.C., Washoe, NV 14 Dec (DS et al.) re-

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

It was an exceptional winter for gulls in the Great Basin. There were several Mew Gull sightings in Utah, including 2 at Lee Kay, Salt Lake 29 Dec-16 Feb (ph. TA et al.), an ad. at Decker L., Salt Lake 13 Jan (TA, S&CS), a first-cycle bird at Sand Hollow S.P., Washington 8 Feb (ph. RF), an ad. at Farmington Bay 9-26 Feb (JLi, BF et al.), and a first-cycle at the Logan Fish Hatchery, Cache 11 Feb (ph. RO, SC). Nevada Mew Gulls included second-cycle birds at the Sparks Marina, Washoe 3 Jan (TL) and Virginia L., Washoe 14-27 Feb (MM, ph. ST et al.). Juv. Thayer's Gulls visited Sparks, Washoe, NV (6 Dec; GS) and Farmington Bay (10-26 Feb; S&CS). An amazing 11 first-cycle Thayer's Gulls were observed 18 Dec-16 Feb at Lee Kay, UT (ph. TA et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings continue to increase in Utah, with a remarkable 3 observed 29 Dec at Lee Kay (ph. TA et al.), including an ad., a third-cycle, and a first-cycle that remained through 16 Feb. A second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull also showed up at Farmington Bay (18-26 Feb, J&KB). Remarkably, Nevada's



One of many rare gulls observed in the Great Basin in winter 2007-2008, this Mew Gull lingered 14-27 (here 27) February 2008 at Virginia Lake, Washoe County, Nevada. Photograph by Steve Ting.

mained through at least 1 Jan (RSt). A Dunlin found along the Jordan Parkway 1 Jan (ph. DO, DSt) was a first for the Salt Lake C.B.C., Salt Lake, UT; 3 at Ash Meadows 13 Feb (CL) were early northbound migrants. A Short-billed Dowitcher made a rare winter appearance at the Logan Fish Hatchery, Cache, UT 16 Dec-4 Jan (KA, RO, CD). Two Wilson's Phalaropes photographed at Antelope I. 12 Jan (CG) were a nice surprise.

first documented Lesser Black-backed Gull also turned up at Virginia L., an ad. on 27 Jan (FP, ph. DG, ph. GS et al.). The ad. Western Gull at Sunset Park, Las Vegas, Clark, NV that was first observed 2 Nov remained until 16 Feb, when it was found dead (RSt, GS et al.). Following last winter's first for Utah, an astounding 3 Western Gulls were observed around the Great Salt L. this season. Both an ad. and a third-cycle bird were found at Lee

SA The identity of a large, dark-backed gull at Virginia L., Reno, *Washoe*, NV 17 Jan+ remains enigmatic. During its lengthy stay, the gull was photographed by numerous observers. Its extensive brownish wing coverts, pink legs (that had become pale yellowish by the end of its stay), and a large, black ring near the bill tip suggested that the bird was in its second cycle. Larid authorities from around the world offered differing opinions on the bird's identity, but many suggested that it could be one of the taxa in the Lesser Black-backed Gull group (i.e., *heuglini* or *taimyrensis*). Additional photographs and information on this intriguing gull can be found at <<http://birdbum3.home.mindspring.com>>.

Kay 29 Dec (ph. TA et al.). The imm. was last observed 1 Jan, and the ad. remained through 3 Jan. Another ad. Western Gull, or perhaps the same individual observed earlier at Lee Kay, turned up at Farmington Bay (27 Jan–26 Feb; J&KB et al.). Glaucous-winged Gulls were found at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV 2 Dec–1 Jan (RSt, DG, DS et al.) and at Lee Kay 15 Dec–6 Jan (TA, JBl). Glaucous Gulls were reported from three Utah locations: Lee Kay 15 Dec (PF, TA), Antelope I. 8 Jan (ph. DR), and Farmington Bay 11–26 Feb (BS et al.).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

An Anna's Hummingbird provided some winter color 15 Dec at the Bountiful Cemetery, *Salt Lake*, UT (TA, JBl), and a Costa's Hummingbird visited Ash Meadows 2 Feb (CL). A first-winter Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was photographed 28 Dec at Lytle (TA), and a Red-breasted Sapsucker in Springdale was an unexpected find on the Zion C.B.C., *Washington*, UT (15 Dec–3 Jan; KW, PL, JBo, JKr). The female Nuttall's Woodpecker first observed at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 1 Sep (GS) continued through at least 10 Feb (ph. CL). A Gilded Flicker made a rare Utah appearance at Lytle 6–10 Feb (AS, ph. TA, RF). A Hammond's Flycatcher found at Lytle 8–16 Feb (ph. RF et al.) made Utah's first winter record of the species and the state's 4th winter record of any *Empidonax* (all records since 2006). An Eastern Phoebe was also discovered at Lytle 9–16 Feb (ph. TA, LT). House Wrens, rare in winter in the s. portion of the Region, were observed in the Hurricane Fields, *Washington*, UT 2 Jan and at Ash Meadows 9 Feb (CL). An Eastern Bluebird associating with a flock of waxwings brightened Logan, *Cache*, UT 28 Dec (RFe). It was an exceptional winter for Bohemian Waxwings in Utah, with large flocks observed in *Cache*, *Davis*, *Millard*, *Salt Lake*, *Utah*, and *Washington*. Flocks were also observed in *Pershing* and *Washoe*, NV.

A Swamp Sparrow was observed at St. George, *Washington*, UT 14 Dec (LT). Nevada also produced a winter Swamp Sparrow at Rye Patch Res., *Pershing* 1–16 Jan (TL, ML, †RW). White-throated Sparrows were reported from Corn Creek 14 Dec+ (GS et al.), Springdale, *Washington*, UT 15 Dec (KW, PL, JBo, JKr), and Logan, *Cache*, UT 30 Dec–5 Jan (CF). Harris's Sparrows were found at Corn

Creek 13–14 Dec (M&JC, GS), Floyd Lamb S.P., *Clark*, NV 19 Dec (RS), Ogden Nature Center, *Weber*, UT 8 Jan (L&PS), and Jordan River Parkway, *Salt Lake*, UT 8–9 Feb (KS). Although no longspurs were reported from Nevada this winter, Utah made up for the dearth with several significant sightings. Utah's 10th documented McCown's Longspur was found near Tremonton, *Box Elder* (31 Jan–2 Feb; †CD, ph. JBl, JL). Lapland Longspurs were observed at Bear River 3 Jan (BB), *Salt Creek W.M.A.*, *Box Elder*, UT 6 Jan–6 Feb (KP, ph. PH et al.), Benson, *Cache*,

Utah, including a female Purple Finch at St. George, *Washington* 16 Feb, White-winged Crossbills at Park City, *Summit* 11 Dec–4 Jan (†JW), and *Salt L.*, *Salt Lake* 18 Feb (†TA), and single Common Redpolls at Antelope I. 22 Feb (†BP) and Paradise, *Cache* 29 Feb (JLo). An astounding flock of 13–15 Lawrence's Goldfinches visited Spring Mountain S.P., *Clark*, NV 19–24 Dec (JT et al.).

Contributors cited: Mary Anderson, Keith Archibald, Tim Avery, Janet Bair, Joe Barnes (JBa), Betsy Beneke, Joel and Kathy Beyer, Jack Binch (JBi), Jeff Blisky (JBl), Jan Boyer (JBo), Stephanie Cobbald, Marian & James Cressman, Bill Fenimore, Rob Fergus (RFe), Craig Fosdick, Rick Fridell, Pomera Fronce, Dennis Ghiglieri, Lu Giddings, Carol Gwynn, Kirk Hardie, Paul Higgins, Joe Kahl, Josh Kreitzer (JKr), Jeff Langford, Pam Larson, Edson Leite, Mark Lenz, Tim Lenz, Jerry Ligouri



There were several large concentrations of Lapland Longspurs found in northern Utah this winter. This individual was photographed on 4 February 2008 at the Salt Creek Wildlife Management Area, Box Elder County. Photograph by Paul Higgins.

UT 20–27 Jan (RO), and Antelope I. 27 Jan–6 Feb (J&KB). Utah's 4th Chestnut-collared Longspur was photographed at Farmington Bay 21–22 Dec (BS, ph. PH et al.). It was an exceptional winter for Snow Buntings, with flocks of up to 50 observed 2 Dec–6 Feb in several n. Utah locations (*Box Elder*, *Cache*, *Davis*, and *Duchesne*). A female Rusty Blackbird was a major surprise 28 Dec in the Hurricane Fields, *Washington*, UT (ph. TA).

Although flocks of Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills appeared at many unusual low-elevation locations, the anticipated irruption of n. species never materialized. There were, however, several significant sightings in

(JLi), Jim Lofthouse (JLo), Carl Lundblad, Brian Maxfield, Martin Meyers, Carol Nelson, Deedee O'Brien, Ryan O'Donnell, Ben Palmer, Fred Petersen, Kristin Purdy, Jack Rensel, Doug Roberts, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Rita Schlageter, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Bryan Shirley, Lee and Paula Shirley, Aaron Small, Steve & Cindy Sommerfeld, Doug Stark (DSt), Kay Stone, Rose Strickland (RSt), Brian L. Sullivan, Steve Ting, Jeanne Tinsman, Carolyn Titus, Larry Tripp, Kevin Wheeler, Robin Wolcott, Jim Woolf, Lynn Zubeck. ☺

Rick Fridell, 3505 West 290 North Hurricane, Utah 84737, (rfridell@redrock.net)



Theodore Tobish

Winter 2007-2008 repeated the patterns of the previous year, with a protracted and locally late freeze-up followed by tardy appreciable snow accumulations until the end of December. As is typical, relating these conditions to bird distribution is tricky, but generally this season's weather allowed semi-hardy and even some insectivorous passerines to linger. Water birds seemed a little on the late side to reach coastal winter sites, where eventually there were quite a few large aggregations. Redpolls made an early season entry to the southern half of the Region, with large numbers reported from south of the Alaska Range and even into Alaska's Southeast. These numbers and the late-arriving snowpack must have contributed to the great winter raptor diversity. Reports of rarities were below the past few years' numbers and variety, although the more regular casual and rare winter taxa were well represented.

Observers should note that posting of their sightings to listservs *does not* constitute formal submission of details and will not always allow me sufficient information to publish reports. Although many of the following reports are of birds that were photographed, most such were posted on <www.surfbirds.com> or similar websites and were not formally submitted. I will only reference photographs submitted to me or to the University of Alaska Museum.

Abbreviations: Southeast (Southeast Alaska); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); documentation for records (flagged with †, ph., vid., or v.r.) is on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

GEESE THROUGH CORMORANTS

A Greater White-fronted Goose in the Gustavus area 16 Dec and 14, 15, & 27 Jan provided the first local mid-winter report (ND); all six prior winter reports were from South-

east. The season's only notable Snow Goose report was one that wintered with local Emperor Geese at Kodiak (†RAM). Five Brant were located with Canada Geese at Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau 16-22 Jan (†MS), at least 6 were at Port

Krestof, near Sitka 28 Dec (KL), while one lingered at Kodiak through 15 Dec (RAM). Brant are casual to very rare winter visitors along the

North Gulf of Alaska coast e. of traditional wintering habitat at Izembek Lagoon on the w. end of the Alaska Peninsula. A single Cackling Goose, casual during winter in Southeast, wintered at Sitka (†MG). Fifty Trumpeter Swans near Gustavus 11 Jan furnished the season's largest congregation (ND). The only winter season Whooper Swan report was a group of 4 at Adak I.'s Sweeper Cove 4 Feb (IH), where regular. Continuing the species' pattern of increased occurrence in Southeast, Wood Ducks were again reported, with 3 at Mendenhall Valley near Juneau 12 Dec-24 Jan (MS, m.ob.), and 2 near Ketchikan's South Point Higgins through Jan, with at least one remaining through 6 Feb (BR, LS). Waterfowl highlights were otherwise sub-

par and included a record Interior tally of 182 Mallards on the Delta Junction C.B.C. through 5 Jan (SD), a casual Interior Barrow's Goldeneye in limited open water at Fairbanks 27 Dec (KR, LD), and a Hooded Merganser at Kodiak 5 Dec-11 Jan (†RAM) that was rare in South-coastal Alaska. Other Southeast rarities included 3 Eurasian Wigeons at Juneau, near the mouth of Fish Creek 17 Dec-30 Jan (PS), single Northern Shovelers at Sitka 21 Jan-mid-Feb (MG) and Juneau 14 & 21 Jan (PS), a Canvasback at Bartlett Cove, Gustavus 11 Jan (ND), and 3 Ring-necked Ducks at Ketchikan's Ward L. 25 Feb (AWP, SCH), with one or more birds at Sitka throughout the season (MG).

Baitfish concentrations at Ketchikan's Tongass Narrows often attract large numbers of wintering loons and cormorants, but this year's loon showing in the area was off the charts. Red-throated Loons are typically very rare inshore, with only one or 2 noted each

winter, so this season's peak of 15 along the Ketchikan road system 21 Jan (SCH, AWP) set a local record. Flocks of more than 100 Pacific Loons began appearing by early Dec, and numbers peaked in late Jan. A peak of 1760 on 21 Jan more than tripled the previous Ketchikan area high count and included a single flock of 1400 birds near the cruise-ship docks (AWP, SCH). These are certainly close to or represent a new Regional high. Flocks of more than 200 Pacifics remained through the season, with 230 at Ketchikan 28 Feb (AWP). A single Pied-billed Grebe at Ketchikan 15 Dec (SCH, JFK) was the only one reported. Wintering Western Grebe flocks in s. Southeast included a C.B.C. tally of 1002 near Wrangell 15 Dec (RC) and 480 along the Ketchikan road system 21 Jan (AWP, SCH). This species reaches its n. wintering limits in n. Southeast, where a few were also noted at Sitka (MG) and Juneau 13 Dec and 13 Jan-18 Feb (GVV, m.ob.). Brandt's Cormorants made an excellent showing at Ketchikan. Flocks at Tongass Narrows regularly contained a few Brandt's, and the two Ketchikan breakwaters



Part of a count of 1400 Pacific Loons, these 40 (with an immature Brandt's Cormorant) were photographed at Ketchikan, Alaska 21 January 2008. Photograph by S. C. Heinl.

often held as many as 5 through the season, with 10 birds 18 Jan and 7 on 12 Dec, all imm. (†SCH, AWP). This species winters in the Region only in the Ketchikan area, where birds prefer less-accessible open waters s. of town (see S. C. Heinl and A. W. Piston, 2007, *The Brandt's Cormorant in Alaska*, *Western Birds* 38: 141-144).

RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS

Diurnal raptors made news this winter mostly s. of the Alaska Range. Bald Eagles were in abundance at their n. limits, with a local record 68 on the Delta Junction C.B.C. 5 Jan (SD) and another record 38 on the Palmer C.B.C. 16 Dec (*vide* RW). At least 14 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted on 12 Christ-



Furnishing a third local record was this second-cycle Iceland Gull at Ketchikan, Alaska 10 January 2008. Photograph by S. C. Heintz.

mas counts on the North Gulf Coast periphery, and fair numbers remained mostly at coastal sites, harassing redpolls through the season, with 4 in the Anchorage area the last week of Feb (m.ob.) being the most significant. Northern Harriers flirted with a new winter-season high count (an occasional single is the norm): one was near Palmer 16 Dec (RW); 4 were on the Gustavus C.B.C. 15 Dec C.B.C., with one through 30 Dec (ND); and one was near Eagle Beach, Juneau 25 Dec (MS, PS). A Red-tailed Hawk at Gustavus through 15 Dec provided the latest local report and one of few winter sightings along the North Gulf coast (BP). This species is occasionally seen during winter in s. Southeast, where one was found this year at Ketchikan 25 Dec (HK). Very late Rough-legged Hawks included 2 at Palmer area flats 16 Dec (*fide* RW) and one at Gustavus through 15 Dec (BP). Another Rough-legged at Palmer 24 Feb (AL) represented one of very few true winter reports at Cook Inlet Basin. An American Kestrel at Gustavus 13 Jan was thought to be the same bird observed there in Nov (†ND); there are fewer than 10 Alaska winter reports.

It was a quiet and rather normal shorebird season, with surprisingly few notable late migrants. The season's peak Sanderling count came from the usual Gustavus area site, where 250 were noted 14 Jan (ND). Sanderlings are very rare and occasional elsewhere during winter, exemplified by singles at Eagle Beach 10 & 17 Jan (PS) and Kodiak's Narrow Cape 5 Jan (RAM). The Upper Cook Inlet area's wintering nominate Rock Sandpiper population was subjected to extreme icing conditions after Dec, and numbers again moved to the e. side of the inlet near the Kasilof River mouth for short periods in Jan (JP, REG). Up to 500 Rocks near Gustavus 18 Feb (ND) furnished the only other significant aggregation. The season's Dunlin

high count also came from Gustavus, with 2500 found 18 Feb (ND). As in recent winters, Drumheller observed a bird in the flock that had been banded on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in Aug 2005 (*fide* ND, REG). It was a decent Wilson's Snipe winter showing given the above-average snowpack and prolonged cold conditions. One was late in the Anchorage area in early Dec (RLS), another at Ketchikan 23 & 25 Feb (SCH), and there were 2 at Juneau 15 Dec followed by one there 2 & 9 Jan (MS, PS).

It was a relatively quiet gull season, especially after Dec and away from the s. Southeast. A Bonaparte's Gull at the Seward waterfront through 22 Dec (CG) was exceptionally late. Small numbers of Bonaparte's lingered at Juneau through mid-Dec, with 5 on 13 Dec (PS) and 4 on the C.B.C. 15 Dec. Farther s. at Ketchikan, numbers lingered into late Dec (maxima of 10 on 1 Dec and 5 on 17 Dec), with the last one noted 10 Jan (SCH, AWP). Another second-cycle Iceland Gull on the Ketchikan waterfront 7 Dec–10 Jan (AWP, †SCH) was only the 3rd substantiated local record. Of the winter's very few Slaty-backed Gull reports, an ad. at Soldotna landfill beginning 29 Dec (TE) was the only significant report.

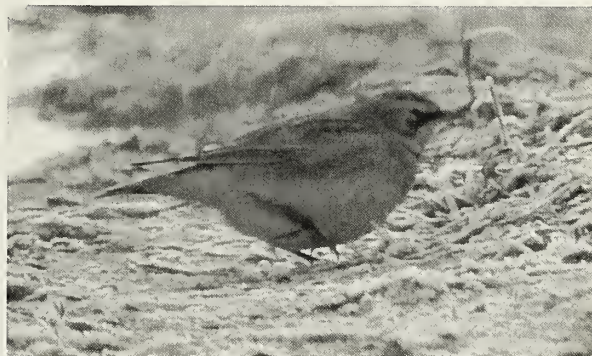
DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

An extremely late Mourning Dove at a Ketchikan feeding station 2–9 Dec (JFK) provided one of the Region's latest reports. Three Snowy Owls were found in the Gustavus area this season; 2 were later found dead, on 4 Dec (SR) and 13 Jan (BP). Eagles were feeding on both carcasses. A live Snowy was found e. of Gustavus 3 Feb

(PV), and another was more surprising n. to Palmer 15 Feb (DL). Northern Hawk Owls were scarce or average within their M mainland range. Singles near Gustavus 18 & 21 Jan (ND) and at Mendenhall Wetlands trail near Juneau 19 Dec (RA) provided good n. Southeast reports. There were apparently fair numbers of Northern Pygmy-Owls in the n. Southeast, including six sites in the Gustavus area (PV). Single birds were also at Douglas I. near Juneau 19 & 29 Dec (PS) and 1 Jan (PR).

Although Short-eared Owls are occasional at coastal sites usually during low-snow winters, this year's batch of sightings was impressive in numbers and distribution. A single Short-eared hunted Palmer hayflats 25 Dec (PF), another wheeled over Homer Spit 12 Jan (AL, DWS), and 2 were located in w. Anchorage 8 Feb+ (DL et al.). Short-eareds have been more regular in midwinter in Upper Cook Inlet in the past 10 years. Elsewhere, there were 3 others at Gustavus through 18 Feb (ND et al.), 2 at Juneau 15 Dec (C.B.C.), and one at Mendenhall Wetlands 16 Jan (MS).

Anna's Hummingbirds have become casual in winter during the past 20 or so years and showed strongly this season. An ad. male lingered at a Juneau feeder through 2 Dec (†PR), an ad. female wintered at a Ketchikan feeder (AWP, SCH), and 2 ad. males visited a Sitka feeder through the end of Jan (†PK, MG). Our understanding of the winter status of Northern Flicker has become clearer over the past 20 years, and this season's reports outline it well. Sightings from the n. Gulf Coast included one at a Palmer feeder through 13 Jan (RW) and at least one on the Anchorage Hillside through 5 Jan (PE, GB). The flicker that wintered at Gustavus (BP et al.) exhibited characteristics of both red-shafted and yellow-shafted forms. Another flicker wintered at Juneau (PS), while small numbers were reported at Sitka (MG). This species winters more commonly in s. Southeast, for instance, normal numbers at Ketchikan this winter in-



At Juneau, Alaska, this Horned Lark (here 6 December 2007) exhibited the bright yellow face of the eastern Asian subspecies *flava*, which has not been documented in southeastern Alaska. Photograph by P. Rose.

cluded a high count of 6 at one feeder 23 Feb (AWP). Like the Gustavus bird, most winter flickers at Ketchikan are intergrades.

Horned Larks showed well into early winter in coastal sections of the Southeast, with many lingering into or beyond Dec. One of 5 photographed at Mendenhall Wetlands 6 Dec (PR) appeared to represent the yellow-faced Asian subspecies *flava*, a casual mostly fall migrant in the Bering Sea area with 2 specimens from Middleton I. in the Gulf of Alaska



Juneau's sixth Spotted Towhee was photographed 2 January 2008; all but one of the seven Alaska records of this species have come from Juneau. Photograph by N. Hajdukovich.

(UAM, unpubl. data). This subspecies has not been previously documented in Southeast. Four of the larks were refound 1 Jan (PR) and furnished the first winter report for Juneau. In the Gustavus area, several Horned Larks were reported in Dec, and one lingered through 3 Feb (†ND), while a single at Ketchikan 21 Dec provided the first mid-winter report for that area. Townsend's Solitaire reports in the Anchorage area were average, while 2 singles survived in the Fairbanks area 23 Dec+ (ND, JD) and 10 Jan+ (EC), and another appeared at a Homer feeder 5 Jan+ (MK). American Robins continue to adapt to local food shortages after landscape berries are consumed by Bohemian Waxwings, with good numbers of robins again showing up at feeders and eating sunflower seeds through the season. A robin at Fairbanks 12 Feb (LD) furnished a casual winter report.

PIPITS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

American Pipits are casual to very rare during the winter, when found at a few coastal sites. Small numbers lingered into Jan, with one at Gustavus 2 Jan (ND), 2 at Ketchikan 9 Jan (SCH), small numbers well into Jan at Juneau (m.ob.), and 2 at Kodiak's Narrow Cape 5 Jan (RAM), where becoming nearly annual. Bohemian Waxwings continued their recent trends, with winter peaks coming later in Dec and even Jan and with higher numbers wintering. Historically, Bohemians congregated in the larger populated areas in Nov and Dec, where they gorged on ornamental berries and then quickly departed. For the past 10 years, Bohemians have departed later and later, and increasing numbers are wintering. Notable among this season's numerous reports were maxima of 200 at Wrangell mid-Dec–mid-Jan (BD), 120 at Juneau 26 Dec (JS), and 100 at Sitka 3 Jan (MG). A single waxwing offshore of Kodiak 5 Jan (RAM) was record late there, while the 3169 on the Palmer C.B.C. 16 Dec

(RW) dwarfed the previous local report. Extralimital Cedar Waxwings were located in South-coastal Alaska, with one at Homer 1 Jan+ (MK) and 2 at Seward sporadically through late Dec (CG).

Given the heavy mid-season storms and snow, surprising warbler numbers were reported, mostly at feeders. At least 3 Orange-crowns made a living at suet and peanut butter at Anchorage, with one surviving through 8 Jan (†DP) and 2 others in early Dec and 2 Jan+ (CS, AL). Another Orange-crowned was at Homer 24 Dec–early Jan before it presumably succumbed (MK), and

another at Sitka 15 Dec (MG) was quite late. Late migrant Yellow-rumped Warblers included singles at Gustavus 3 Dec (ND) and Juneau 6 Dec (MM), plus multiples offshore at Sitka through Dec and into early Jan, with the latest 3 Jan (†MG). At Ketchikan, singles were observed 9 Dec (AWP), 15 Dec (SCH), and 20 Jan (SCH), with the latter furnishing the 4th local Jan/Feb report.

A Spotted Towhee at Juneau 20 Dec–8 Jan (†PS, PR, NH) furnished the 7th report for Alaska, all but one of which come from that area. At Gustavus, American Tree Sparrow flocks were widespread along the beach, with a maximum of 40 in one flock 22 Jan (ND), while at Juneau they were considered to be in above-average numbers. Small numbers, typically singles at feeders, also wintered in the Ketchikan, Sitka, and Wrangell areas. It proved to be a spectacular season in Southeast for Savannah Sparrows, a casual winter visitant. At Gustavus, 5 were tallied 20 Dec, with 3 remaining until 1 Jan (BP, ND). Three others were at Mendenhall Wetlands 5 Jan (PS, BA), with singles at Juneau 25 Dec (MS, PS) and 2 Jan (PS, NH), Sitka early–18 Feb (MW, MT), Seward through 22 Dec (CG), and Ketchikan all winter (LK). More Fox Sparrows wintered than is typical, highlighted by 3 at an Anchorage feeder into mid-Feb (†DP) and 8 *zaboria*-types reported variously at Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan (m.ob.).

The 3 Ketchikan birds (one bird through the end of the season) were of particular note, considering there was only one local report of *zaboria* prior to 2007. Lincoln's Sparrows are very rare during winter, so singles at Juneau 30 Jan (MS), Sitka through mid-Feb (MLW, MET), Kodiak 20 Jan (RAM), and Homer early Dec–11 Jan (DWS, MK, AL), plus 2 that lin-

gered around Ketchikan until 31 Dec (SCH, NH) were among this season's numerous highlights. A Swamp Sparrow at Gustavus continued until 15 Dec (ND, †PV), the season's only report. Following a decent fall showing, 4 Harris's Sparrows were found in Southeast, with singles at Juneau 15 Dec (BA, PR), Wrangell 1 Dec–25 Feb (†CR), Petersburg through mid-Dec (BP), and Ketchikan all winter (JFK). Farther afield, another Harris's was at a Homer feeder 12–15 Jan (DWS, AL, MK), from which most of South-coastal's few winter reports have come. The same feeder also produced the Region's White-crowned Sparrow high count of 30+ from mid-Dec into early Jan (DWS, MK). As is the norm, White-throated Sparrows were distributed in small numbers in Southeast, with singles or duos at Juneau (AB-F, KL, ATL, PS, MA), Wrangell (†CR), and Ketchikan (†CF, SCH, AWP), mostly through mid-season. Unusual was an Oregon Junco at Anchorage 15 Dec–mid-Jan (TT, m.ob.), where there are perhaps two previous winter reports. Very small numbers of Oregon-types drift westward, beyond their breeding zone in n. Southeast, each fall into the cen. North Gulf Coast, where a few occasionally winter. Higher-than-usual numbers of Slate-colored Juncos were found at Gustavus (ND), Sitka (MG), and Ketchikan (AWP, SCH).

One of 4 Lapland Longspurs at Mendenhall Wetlands 16 Dec (PR) lingered through 6 Jan (GVV, PS, BA) to furnish one of very few Alaska mid-winter reports. A very pale bunting picked out of a Snow Bunting flock at Mendenhall Wetlands 21 Dec (GVV) was re-



A first record for Alaska's Southeast, this McKay's Bunting was photographed at Eagle Beach, near Juneau in mid-January 2008. Photograph by G. van Vliet.

located 24 Dec and identified as a McKay's Bunting (PS, †MS). In the ensuing days, another McKay's was identified, and both remained through early Jan (m.ob.); there are no prior reports from Southeast. Perhaps part of this easterly push was another McKay's with Snow Buntings at Palmer 8 Jan–16 Feb (CS, BW, SW et al.), a new bird for Upper Cook Inlet. Snow Buntings typically winter in locally large numbers from the cen. Bering

Sea, in the Aleutians, and around the North Gulf into Southeast, with occasional small groups in the Interior and inland s. of the Alaska Range. Inland Snow Bunting reports after Jan had been characterized as early migrants, but this season's mid-winter observations suggest a broader winter range. At least 90 birds remained well into early Feb in weedy fields near Palmer's Plant Materials Center (m.ob.), 80+ were at w. Anchorage in mid-Feb (BC et al.), with 15 others at Fairbanks 25 Jan (*fide* NH). These mid-season reports probably represent the true extent of Snow Bunting's winter distribution.

A stunning male Brambling at Gustavus 27 Dec+ (†ND) provided the first local report and one of very few reports for Southeast in more than 10 years. Two other Bramblings graced the Region, singles at Anchorage 15 Dec–23 Jan (TT, m.ob.) and Homer early Dec+ (GM, m.ob.). The season's only Purple Finch report was a female-type in South-coastal Alaska at Seward 10–19 Jan (DWS, AL, CG et al.). Common Redpolls descended early into South-coastal locales and staged a widespread invasion. Flocks appeared at Anchorage and other Cook Inlet basin and Kenai Pen. feeders in mid-Dec, weeks or even months ahead of

schedule. Large influxes were reported at Gustavus, Sitka, and Wrangell in mid- to late Feb. Redpolls were abundant at Gustavus by late Feb (N. Drumheller). Juneau birders reported several flocks in excess of 100 birds each (m.ob.) and a massive flock that exceeded 1000 birds 26 Feb (MS). Numbers farther s., where typically much less common, were also impressive. A major redpoll influx occurred around Sitka in mid-Feb, with flocks numbering more than 100 birds reported in more than one location (MG). Up to 50 also appeared at Wrangell 14 Feb (LB, m.ob.), and this event was described locally as the first redpoll invasion in memory (*fide* BD). Small numbers of redpolls reached Ketchikan (AWP, SCH). The amazing House Sparrow saga at Shishmaref, Bering Sea continues: 2 birds from the fall were found feeding in snow-free areas under houses 8 Feb+ (KS).

Contributors cited (regional compilers in boldface): B. Alger, J. B. Allen, R. Armstrong, G. Baluss, L. Bauer, B. Benter, S. Berns, A. Berry-Frick, G. Bullock, G. V. Byrd, M. Cady, B. L. Carlson, E. Clark, C. Corin, N. Cowles, L. Craig, J. Dearborn, D. F. Delap, B. Demerjian, L. Devaney, N. DeWitt (Interior), J. De-

Witt, B. Ditttrick, W.E. Donaldson, N. Drumheller, S. DuBois, N. Eagleson, L. Edfelt, P. Eldridge, D. Erikson, T. Eskelin, T. Evans, D. Fox, P. & C. Fritz, C. Fultz, F. Glass, D. D. Gibson, R.E. Gill, M. Goff, S. Golodoff, R. J. Gordon, T. L. Goucher, C. Griswold, K. Hart, C. Harwood, N. Haydukovich, S. C. Heini (Southeast), I. Helmericks, P. & T. Hunt, J. Johnson, H. Kenoyer, W. Keys, M. Kilcher, J. F. Koerner, L. & L. Kolund, G. Koonooka, K. LaBounty, A. Lang, K. Leghorn, J. Levison, D. Lloyd, A. T. Lynch, R. A. MacIntosh, D. MacPhail, P. Mayer, M. McCafferty, C. McIntyre, N. Mollett, L. J. Oakley, B. Paige, B. Pawuk, J. Pearce, B. Peluso, S. Peterson, A. W. Piston (Southeast), B. Porter, D. & S. Porter, P. Pourchot, D. Prentki, S. Rice, P. Rose, C. Ross, B. Rotecki, D. Rudis, K. Russell, C. Sartor, J. Sauer, L. Scharf, R. L. Scher, M. Schwan, C. Senungetuk, S. Senner, D. Shaw, G. Smith, D. W. Sonneborn, K. Stenek, S. Studebaker, P. Suchanek, A. Swingley, G. Tans, M. E. Tedin, T. Tobish, R. Trotter, G. Van Vliet, P. Vanselow, M. L. Ward, S. Weltz, R. Winckler, K. Zervos, S. Zimmerman. ☉

Thede Tobish, 2510 Foraker Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517, (tgtljo@gci.net)

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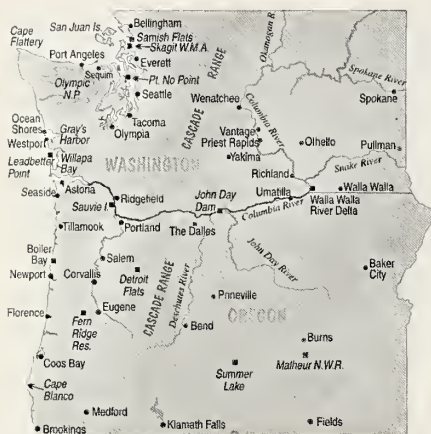
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(215) 299-1069 vireo@ansp.org

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Oregon & Washington



Steven G. Mlodinow
David Irons
Bill Tweit

The weather was average in temperature. The season began wet, with December bringing 25% above-normal precipitation, January was near the mean, and February was relatively dry, with 70% normal precipitation. This season had a distinct avian theme: birds that were once very rare or of limited range during winter 20 years ago are now far more regular or widespread. Among the species are Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Brown Pelican, American Bittern, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sora, Pacific Golden-Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Williamson's Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Western Bluebird, American Pipit, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Bullock's Oriole. Added to this list are birds that have been showing an ongoing year-round range expansion in the Region, including Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Western Scrub-Jay, Tricolored Blackbird, and Lesser Goldfinch. The trend of less-hardy species increasing in numbers or range is rather dramatically illustrated, exceptions such as Trumpeter Swan and American Tree Sparrow notwithstanding.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The winter was unremarkable for Emperor Geese, with one near Reedsport, Douglas 17 Dec+ (RN), another found dead at Hammond, Clatsop 20 Dec (TG), and 2 near South Bend, Pacific 15 Jan–3 Feb (CW). The Snow Goose flock wintering at Fir I., Skagit and near Stanwood, Snohomish contained at least 9 blue

morphs (4 ads., 5 imms.), the highest winter tally to date (SM, TA, RM). Far rarer was a blue morph that wintered at Sauvie I., likely the same individual there this past fall (m.ob.). An imm. Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid hid among the Snow Goose hordes at Fir I. 24 Feb (ph. SM). This season's 8 west-side Ross's Geese were unremarkable but included a very rare winter coastal bird at Tillamook 25 Jan (M. Simper). Cackling Geese of the subspecies *minima* were again found in e. Washington: 3 at Moses L. 16 Dec may well have been southbound stragglers (DS), while 24 distributed among at four Columbia Basin locations 17–23 Feb were likely northbound migrants (SM, DI, DS). The wintering range of Cackling Geese at Puget Trough continues to move northward, with 70+ wintering in Snohomish for the 2nd consecutive winter. The Snohomish flock contained 72 *taverneri* and 2 *minima* 2 Feb (SM). Five Dusky Canada Geese near Sylvana, Snohomish 26 Jan were well n. of their winter range in sw. Washington and w. Oregon (SM). A Black Brant near Prineville 10–13 Jan, very rare on the eastside, was Crook's first (S.

the 9th for Washington (†SM, ph. BSW, DI)—most reports have been in Skagit during the past five years, raising the distinct possibility that this was a returning bird.

A Wood Duck × Mallard hybrid at Portland all season (ph. C. Tumer) is not without precedent (McCarthy 2006, *Handbook of Avian Hybrids of the World*). An astounding concentration of waterfowl at Lummi Bay, Whatcom 8 Dec included approximately 80,000 each American Wigeon and Northern Pintail (SM, R. Fuller); these totals represent about 12% and 4% of the entire Pacific Flyway populations, respectively (2007 Pacific Flyway Data Book, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service). A concentration of 300 Eurasian Wigeons at the head of Padilla Bay, Skagit 24 Feb nearly doubled the previous Regional record (SM, DI, BSW). Four Eurasian Wigeons on the eastside this winter was about half the normal number. The Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrid returned to Clarkston, Asotin 22 Dec (K. Carlson). A Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrid, nearly annual in the Region, was near Brownsmeade, Clatsop 16 Feb (B. Sundstrom). A remarkable 3 Blue-winged Teal vis-



This Swainson's Hawk wintered near Tangent, Linn County, Oregon (here on the day of its discovery 23 December 2007). Photograph by Cheryl Whelchel.

Dougill, D. Fagen); on the westside, where still rare away from salt water, 2 visited Lane 26 Jan (DF, DI). An astounding 2300 Trumpeter Swans were tallied in w. Skagit 24 Feb (SM, DI, BSW), eclipsing the Washington record of 1515 set in Feb 2005. Trumpeters are also becoming more widespread and numerous in the Willamette Valley, with reports in five counties this season. A Bewick's Swan at Conway, Skagit 24 Feb–8 Mar was about

ited Oregon this winter: singles at Svenson I., Clatsop 1 Jan (MP), Coquille, Coos 27 Jan (TR), and Eugene 30 Jan (DI, L. McQueen). Eighteen Cinnamon Teal at Everett 3 Jan was utterly unprecedented for n. Washington (SM, D. Paulson); consider that 20 years prior, all of Washington's C.B.C.s combined yielded only 10 Cinnamons. Oregon's 2nd Baikal Teal was shot by a hunter at Fern Ridge Res., Lane 31 Dec (ph. DF), Oregon's other record was also



Despite pelting rain and high wind, this juvenile Ruff remained faithful to a small puddle near Stanwood, Snohomish County, Washington 1-11 (here 1) December 2007. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

shot by a hunter in nearby Benton in Jan 1974. Baikal Teal suffered substantial population declines, with a nadir of approximately 30,000 birds, during the 1980s (Moore's 2005 in: *Ducks, Geese, and Swans*), but recovery efforts have led to a dramatic population rebound, with 500,000 estimated during winter 2004 (Delany and Scott 2006, *Waterbird Population Estimates*). A goodly 13 Eurasian Teal and 9 Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal hybrids were noted, all on the westside. A Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup hybrid inhabited Warm Beach, Snohomish 15 Dec-1 Jan (ph. SM); almost unknown 10 years ago, hybrids between Ring-necked Ducks and scaup are now found regularly in the Region. A Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid near John Day Dam 3-29 Dec (G. Fredericks, ph. CM) was likely the same bird first found there in Nov 2003. Eastern Washington's 12th Tufted Duck graced Desert Aire, Grant 23 Feb (SM, DI, DS). At least 13 Long-tailed Ducks visited the eastside this winter, with a stunning 9 near Vantage 26 Jan (SDs). The only interior westside Long-tailed enlivened Brownsville, Linn 26 Dec-6 Jan (B. Combs). A Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid showed up at Seattle 9 Jan (†A. Wuenschel); this cross too is now found annually yet was nearly unheard of 10 years ago. Considerably rarer, hybrids of Common Goldeneye × Bufflehead were near Richland 8 Dec (ph. J. Abel) and at Wenatchee 5 Feb (ph. T. Pieper); the latter bird was almost certainly the same bird first located at Wenatchee during Dec 2001.

A surprising 56 Sharp-tailed Grouse were encountered at Scotch Creek, Okanogan 16 Jan (TA). Wild Turkeys continue to conquer e. Washington, with groups at Stratford and Gloyd Seeps demonstrating colonization s. well into Grant (DS). A Red-throated Loon

brightened Richland 5 Jan (NL, BL, G. McWethy), and 4 were in the Willamette Valley away from the Columbia R. 30 Dec-4 Jan; these extremely unusual reports followed an exceptionally good fall season. An extraordinarily cooperative Arctic Loon, Oregon's 3rd, inhabited Brownsmead, Clatsop 9 Dec+ (ph. M. Patterson). In Washington, Arctic Loons graced Blaine, Whatcom 7 Feb (BS) and Point No Point, Kitsap 15 Feb (VN), about the 5th and 6th for Washington. (The Arctic Loon reported in Douglas during winter 2006-2007 was considered inadequately documented by the Washing-

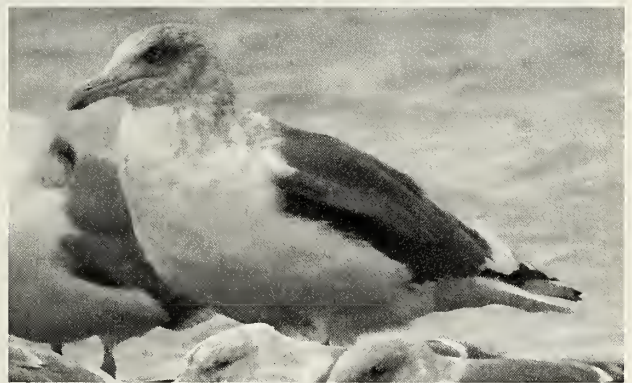
ton B.R.C.) Twelve Pacific Loons were detected on the eastside, including 9 after Dec, when not annual. A goodly 10 Yellow-billed Loons adorned the Region, including a very rare eastside bird at Pateros, Okanogan 7 Dec (†M. Spencer, R. Hendrick), the Willamette Valley's 2nd ever at Dexter Res., Lane 12-16 Jan (DF), and a maximum of 4 between Dungeness Bay and Protection I. 17 Dec (CW, BLB). A gathering of 67 Pied-billed Grebes at L. Terrell, Whatcom 8 Dec likely set a Washington winter record (SM, R. Fuller). Five Clark's Grebes in w. Washington was near the norm.

Lone Northern Fulmars passed Point No Point, Kitsap 5 Dec and 6 Feb (VN), and 2 were between Dungeness Bay and Protection I. 17 Dec (CW); fulmars are very rare in the Puget Trough. Barely annual in the Puget Trough, 2 Short-tailed Shearwaters passed Richmond Beach, King 4 Dec (RM), while others were between Dungeness Bay and Protection I. 17 Dec (CW, BLB) and off Bainbridge I., Kitsap 2 Feb (BSW). Single American White Pelicans at Portland 4 Dec-7 Jan (D. Helzer, E. Johnson), Baskett Slough, Polk 10 Jan+ (B. Tice), and Fern Ridge Res., Lane 21-29 Jan (D. Brown)

were the first reported from the westside during winter since Jan 2005. Unusually large flocks of Brown Pelicans studded the entire Oregon coast, with 60 as far n. as Clatsop 4 Dec (D. Bailey). Unfortunately, winds exceeding 95 mph (150 kph) battered the Oregon coast 2-3 Dec, leaving dozens of injured and

dead pelicans hanging from trees and strewn in the brush. Nonetheless, small numbers of pelicans persisted well into Jan in Lincoln, Coos, and Curry. In Washington, the only Brown Pelican graced Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor 29 Dec (CW, RTS). American Bitterns have rapidly gone from mega-rarity to nearly annual during winter in e. Washington; this winter, one enlivened Moses L. 9 Feb (DS). Eight Great Egrets were seen at four e. Washington locations this winter, a bit above recent averages; numbers in w. Washington remained high as well, with a maximum of 63 at Woodland, Cowlitz 29 Dec (R. Koppendrayer). Turkey Vultures seem to be quietly extending their winter range into our Region. Likely unprecedented were several sightings in nw. Washington through the end of Dec (fide D. MacRae); equally unusual was one eastside at Sisters, Deschutes 5 Jan (S. Shunk). Turkey Vultures again wintered around Eugene, with 8 there all season (B. Evans). Early northbound vultures were also evident, with one at Prineville 14 Feb that was about five weeks early for e. Oregon (N. MacDonald), plus likely migrants at five Willamette Valley locations during Jan.

An Osprey, now nearly annual during winter in Washington, visited Marymoor Park, King 6 Dec (M. Hobbs). Three Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in sw. Washington, but in nw. Washington, where still very rare, singles wintered at Kent (m.ob.) and were near LaConner, Skagit 11-12 Feb (B. Sundstrom). Another Red-shouldered at Summer L. 18 Dec yielded a very rare e. Oregon winter report.



This Slaty-backed Gull at Ocean Shores on 29 December 2007 was one of three in Washington in winter 2007-2008, bringing that state to 14 records in total. Photograph by Ryan T. Shaw.

Oregon's 4th winter Swainson's Hawk was near Tangent, Linn 23 Dec+ (ph. C. Whelchel); five of the Region's seven winter reports are from the past four years. Single Ferruginous Hawks, not annual during winter in Washington, inhabited Wilson Creek, Grant 9 Dec (R. Friesz) and Touchet, Walla Walla 2 Feb (MMD). The status of Black Mer-



Over the past decade, Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become annual visitors to eastern Washington. Some sightings, however, are surely of returning birds, and the total number of birds involved in these remains unknown. Otherwise, this species has only been definitively identified twice in Oregon or Washington: once in Lane County, Oregon and once in Clallam County, Washington. This cooperative Lesser Black-backed Gull inhabited Richland, Benton County, Washington 3-22 (here 21) January 2008. Photograph by Keith Brady.

lin (subspecies *suckleyi*) on the eastside is poorly understood, so one at Walla Walla 15 Dec was of note (MMD). A Prairie Falcon at Samish Flats, *Skagit* 2 Dec–2 Jan was the only one seen in w. Washington (K. Brown). Four Prairies in w. Oregon was also subpar but included a very rare outer coast bird wintering at Brownsmead, *Clatsop* (S. Maulding, D. Schrouder). The 8 Gyrfalcons detected in Washington was a bit below average, and none were confirmed in Oregon for the first time in more than 10 years. A Sora at Bingen, *Klickitat* 27 Jan was on the eastside, where still very rare during winter (SJ). Single Soras at Ocean Shores 7 Jan (T. O'Brien) and near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* (K. Knittle, M. Breece) were in w. Washington, where now annual during winter. A stunning 25,525 American Coots occupied Priest Rapids Pool 9 Dec (RH). A Sandhill Crane was near Potholes Res. 12 Jan (DS), and 2 lingered at Summer L. through 18 Dec (S. Dougill, D. Hale, H. Horvath); during winter, Sandhills are exceptionally rare in e. Washington and not annual in e. Oregon.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

For the 3rd consecutive winter, a Pacific Golden-Plover (juv.) was found at Samish Flats, *Skagit* 5 Dec+ (RM), about the 8th winter report for Washington. A Mountain Plover near Harrisburg, *Linn* (ph. M. Nikas) and 2 at the New R. mouth, *Coos* 24 Jan–17 Feb (TR, ph. RN) added to 10 previous Oregon reports; the Region has now hosted 20 Mountain Plovers, all but one on the westside, and most during Nov–Mar. A gathering of 52 Greater Yellowlegs at Warm Beach, *Snohomish* 23 Dec was unprecedented for n. Washington (SM).

Part of Washington's "now-annual-during-winter club" is Lesser Yellowlegs, evidenced this winter by singles at Warm Beach 23 Dec–2 Feb (SM) and South Bend, *Pacific* 15 Jan (CW); surprisingly, a Lesser at Coos Bay 16 Dec was the only one in Oregon (RN, J. Fontaine). A Willet, likely a returning bird, inhabited Totten Inlet, *Mason* 4-15 Dec (J. Buchanan); Willets are extremely rare during winter away from the outer coast. A Wandering Tattler, not annual during winter in Oregon, was near Florence, *Lane* 8 Feb (DI). A Spotted Sandpiper

wintered at Ice Harbor Dam (MMD), and another visited Priest Rapids Dam, *Yakima* 19 Jan (AS); now nearly annual on the eastside, this species was unreported there prior to 1996. A Long-billed Curlew at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* 17 Dec (EH), and likely the same bird at nearby Port Washington 10 Feb (BSW, DD, SM), furnished the first winter sightings away from the outer coast since Dec 2000. A Marbled Godwit, rare but annual away from the outer coast, was also at Port Washington 10 Feb (BSW, DD, SM). A Washington winter record 352 Least Sandpipers inhabited Grayland Beach, *Pacific* 20 Feb (J. Buchanan), while 53 at Crockett L., *Island* 25 Dec were exceptional for an inland site (SM, RTS), and a goodly 14 were seen on the eastside, with 10 at Richland 5 Dec (NL) and 4 at Walla Walla R. Delta, *Walla Walla* 23 Feb (MMD). A tally of 100 Dunlins at Walla Walla R. Delta 15 Jan was superb for winter on the eastside (BW). Washington's 2nd winter Ruff was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 1-11 Dec (ph. SM, M. Axelsson). Six Long-billed Dowitchers, increasingly regular during winter on the eastside, visited Moses L. 15 Dec (DS). Rare in the Puget Trough, a Red Phalarope drifted off Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 15 Jan (BSW).

The eastside's first Black-headed Gull brightened Electric City, *Grant* 29 Dec–5 Jan (ph. AS); even Bonaparte's Gulls are rare in e. Washington during midwinter. A count of 400 Thayer's Gull at Tukwila, *King* 30 Jan was exceptional for midwinter (C. Cox). A Lesser Black-backed Gull at Richland 3-22 Jan (BL, NL) wandered to Walla Walla R. Delta 21 Jan (MMD); another ad. was near Grand Coulee Dam, *Grant* 30 Jan (†L. Schreiner, V. Glick). Lesser Black-backed have been found annual-

ly in e. Washington since 1998, although the total number of individuals involved is unclear. Different Slaty-backed Gulls visited Renton 23 (CW) & 28 Dec (RM), and another graced Ocean Shores 29 Dec (RTS, CW), adding to 11 prior Washington reports. It was another outstanding winter for Glaucous Gulls, with 33 in Washington and 15 in Oregon. Unlike this past year, numbers were not heavily weighted toward the westside, but like this past year, most were detected after Dec. Clearly lost and confused was the Black-legged Kittiwake at a small duck pond 130 km inland at Roseburg 5 Jan (J. Hein), whereas one visiting Vashon I., *King* 3 Dec was in the Puget Trough, where rare but annual (D. Willsie). First observed in flight, Washington's 2nd Ivory Gull was pursued through Richland 20 Jan until it landed (ph. BSW); Washington's first was in Grays Harbor during Dec 1975, and there are fewer than 10 reports for w. North America s. of Alaska. The Region's first Black Skimmer stopped briefly on a beach near the Pistol R., *Curry* 26 Jan (†B. Hunter); given two recent reports in Humboldt, CA, this species was expected to occur in Oregon. A Cassin's Auklet, very rare in the Puget Trough, was off Bainbridge I. 24 Dec (BSW).

Double-digit numbers of Eurasian Colared-Doves are now being reported from all quadrants of our Region, with a new westside maximum of 31 found wintering at Brookings, *Curry* (D. Munson). Approximately 8 Snowy Owls in Washington and 3 in Oregon represented a fairly typical "non-irruption" winter. Four Burrowing Owls in e. Washington and 3 in w. Oregon were about par for winter. A Northern Hawk Owl, now annual in Washington, was near Coulee Dam, *Grant* 1-6 Jan (R. Louderback). Single Anna's Hummingbirds survived the harsh eastside winter at Bend (D. Tracy) and College Place, *Walla Walla* (MMD). This winter's Costa's Hummingbird remained at Bend through 21 Jan (DT); Bend is at 1200 m elevation. Rufous Hummingbirds are now arriving about two weeks earlier than 10 years ago, with numerous reports in both states during mid-Feb. More interesting was a female Rufous/Allen's at Seattle 27 Jan (A. Knue); as the first *Selasphorus* of the spring are almost entirely males, this bird may well have wintered nearby, a very rare event. The sole w. Oregon Lewis's Woodpecker enriched Finley 7 Jan (N. Strycker). For the 7th consecutive winter, a Williamson's Sapsucker appeared in Washington, with one near Mount Spokane 3-31 Jan (J. Christensen); notably, Washington had one winter report prior to 1998. A Red-breasted Sapsucker, rare e. of the Cascades, visited Hines, *Harney* 19 Jan (L. Hammond).

SA The challenges of sapsucker identification—largely the result of hybridization—remain underestimated by many of the Region's birders. This season, westside sapsuckers at Warrenton, *Clatsop* 16 Dec and Dexter Res., *Lane* 13 Jan were "accepted" by local birders as Red-naped until Craig Tumer questioned the identification of the *Lane* bird. Photographs of both birds showed red feathering extending through the black "throat frame" into the white malars and below the black breast band. Additionally, red feathers were scattered through the auriculars and into the very narrow supercilium. These features should not be present on a "pure" Red-naped Spasucker (Johnson and Johnson, *Auk* 105: 1-15). Given that hybridization is not rare in the Cascades, the Region's observers should carefully scrutinize all sapsuckers, extralimital or otherwise.

PASSERINES

Two Say's Phoebe, rare during midwinter in e. Washington, were near Touchet, *Walla Walla* 1 Jan (MMD); a goodly 8 Say's were found in w. Oregon, including 4 that wintered at Cape Blanco (T. J. Wahl, TR). Blue Jays showed poorly, with singles at Walla Walla 20 Dec (MMD), Bend in mid-Dec and 15 Jan (S. Doran), and Cleveland, *Klickitat* 26 Nov–2 Mar (*fide* SDs). The only extralimital Western Scrub-Jays were 2 long-staying birds at Prosser, *Benton* through 6 Jan (M. Livingston); 4 scrub-jays at Yakima 3 Dec now appear to be resident (DG). A Clark's Nutcracker at Spokane 23 Feb (J. Corder, CC) had strayed from its montane haunts. Lingering Tree Swallows are starting to overlap with early arrivals in w. Oregon, and this species seems destined to be a regular part of the winter avifauna there; among numerous scattered reports in w. Oregon, the most notable were 6 wintering at Myrtle Pt., *Coos* (M. Wihler, TR) and 5 at Seal Rock, *Lincoln* 18 Dec–20 Jan (L. Osis, R. Cheek). A Violet-green Swallow at Nisqually, *Thurston* 7 Dec was about six weeks late (P. Kelley). Washington's 3rd winter-season Northern Rough-winged Swallow graced Marymoor Park, *King* 21 Feb (M. Hobbs, ph. O. Oliver, ph. S. Ramos). An early pulse of Barn Swallows again entered the Region, although but a shadow of the early flights seen during 2002-2006. In w. Oregon, the pulse passed in late Jan, with 30 birds at six locations, while 4 birds were reported at three locations in w. Washington in mid-Feb. Interestingly, there were essentially no reports after the first wave of sightings. Associated with this westside incursion was a very rare eastside Barn Swallow at Upper Klamath L. 19 Jan (W. Stone). At the season's other end, a single Barn near Rexville, *Skagit* 1 Dec was a month tardy (J. Brady-Power).

A Sedge Wren at Wilson W.M.A., *Benton* 4-9 Jan (WDR), less than 15 km from where the same observer found one this past winter, furnished the 3rd report for Oregon and the Region. Western Bluebirds are apparently becoming part of w. Washington's winter avifauna, with 35 reported at six locations. Similarly, they are increasing in e. Washington, with 27 reported at seven locations prior to the arrival

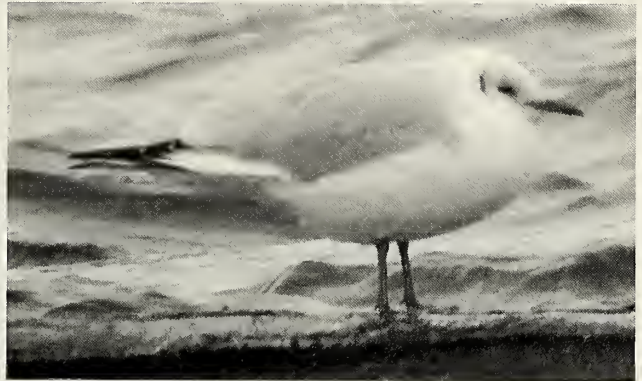
of spring migrants in Feb. Mountain Bluebirds, irregular during winter in Washington, appeared in unprecedented numbers. Westside singles in *Clark*, *King*, and *Whatcom* during Dec were unusual enough, but 40 near Maryhill, *Klickitat* in e. Washington 29 Dec (*fide* SJ) superseded any prior mid-winter count, and 11 at Bennington L., *Walla Walla* 21 Dec were also exceptional (MMD). In w. Oregon, one was along the *Benton/Polk* border 28-29 Jan (RG). A Townsend's Solitaire, very rare on the outer coast, enlivened Ocean Shores 29 Dec (*fide* T. O'Brien). A stunning 58,400 American Robins inhabited Naches, *Yakima* 23 Feb (SDs). There were only 4 Northern Mockingbirds this winter, 3 in w. Oregon and one that wintered at Terrebonne, *Deschutes* (R. Jackson). A flock of 56 American Pipits in n. *Sherman* 19 Feb (SJ) was exceptional for winter on the eastside. Bohemian Waxwings have become very rare in w. Washington and casual in w. Oregon over the past 20 years, so 44 in sw. Oregon near Pilot Rock, *Jackson* 12 Jan (F. Lospalluto) was astonishing; westside singles also inhabited Seattle 2 Jan+ (R. Hibpsman) and Duvall, *King* 17 Feb (O. Oliver). On the eastside, 26 Bohemians at Page Springs, *Harney* 12 Jan (NS) and 14 at Summer L. 8 Dec (P. Christensen) were well s. of their usual range.

A Yellow Warbler at Tillamook 31 Dec (ph. P. French) was the Region's 7th in the past 10 years. Nearly as rare was a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Sauvie I. 5 Dec (C. Warren). A Palm Warbler, rare away from the outer coast, was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 20 Dec (SM, RM).

SA Every winter, a scattering of dull grayish Orange-crowned Warblers are noted on the westside, and these birds have long been assumed to be *V. c. orestera*. However, the known wintering ranges of *orestera* and nominate *celata* are poorly understood, as is their identification. Given the biogeography of species/superspecies with similarly distributed subspecies/species (e.g., White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, sapsuckers), it would seem likely that some (many?) of these grayish birds are actually *V. c. celata*. Indeed, an Orange-crowned at Utsalady Bay, *Island* 18 Feb seemed typical of the nominate subspecies (SM, E. Stoccardo). Further study of specimens and birds caught by banders clearly is needed.

A Black-and-white Warbler at North Bend, *Coos* 20 Feb (B. Griffin) furnished the Region's 5th winter report in the past 10 years. A Common Yellowthroat, not quite annual in Washington after Dec, was at Ridgefield 19-26 Jan (BF); oddly, the only yellowthroat in Oregon was at Finley N.W.R., *Benton* 6 Jan (NS). Another species now annual in winter is Wilson's Warbler, with this season's bird visiting Carnation, *King* 8 Dec (M. Flint). Similarly, Western Tanager has now appeared in the Region during 10 consecutive winters, with one at Grants Pass 16 Dec (Phil Hicks).

American Tree Sparrows have become annual in w. Oregon; this winter, there were 4, with one as far s. as North Spit Coos Bay, *Coos* (TR). Three Chipping Sparrows this winter represented a return to normal, with one at Corvallis 18 Dec (R. P. Moore) and 2 near Perrydale, *Polk* 3 Feb (C. Karlen, P. Sullivan). Four Clay-colored Sparrows in w. Oregon was about average for winter. Concentrations of 20 Savannah Sparrows near Corfu, *Grant* 5 Jan (RH) and 25 near Lowden, *Walla Walla* 3 Feb (MMD) were exceptional for winter in e.



After an eight-year hiatus, Black-headed Gulls now have appeared during two consecutive winters in Washington. This bird, which visited Electric City, Grant County 29 December 2007 through 5 (here 3) January 2008, furnished the state's seventeenth record and the first for eastern Washington. Photograph by Tom Munson.

Washington, where they have shown a steadily increasing presence during winter. A Red Fox Sparrow (subspecies group *iliaca*) wintered at Gold Beach, *Curry* (†TR), and another visited Tillamook 14 Dec (J. Harding); birds of this group are rare but annual in the Region. A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (subspecies *schistacea*) enlivened Dugalla Bay, *Island* 25 Dec (†SM, RTS, T. Norris); this subspecies is very rare in Washington during winter and rare w.



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of the Cascades at any time. Only 8 Swamp Sparrows were found this winter, with 6 in w. Oregon and 2 in w. Washington; this dismal total is well below the recent norm of about 30 per winter. The Region's tally of 15 Harris's Sparrows was about 75% of the recent norm. A White-crowned Sparrow was along lower Crab Cr., *Grant* 23 Feb (SM, DI); winter reports from the eastside are few, though *pugetensis* likely winters there annually. Hybrids of Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow were again detected, with a possible returning bird along Mounts Rd., *Pierce* 12 Jan (CW, BT) and singles at Kent, *King* 10 Feb (CW, J. Barry) and Skagit W.M.A. 15 Dec (SM). Dark-eyed Juncos, always common, were unusually abundant, exemplified by 904 at Eugene 30 Dec (DI). A *Pheucticus* grosbeak at Olympia 16 Jan yielded only the 7th winter report for the genus in Washington (†R. Baird); prior reports consist of 3 Black-headed, 2 Rose-breasted, and one not identifiable to species. A Black-headed Grosbeak adorned Springfield, *Lane* 6 Dec (ph. M. Higgins); there are fewer than 10 Oregon winter reports.

At least 10 Tricolored Blackbirds wintered at Othello, *Adams*, their usual Washington winter haunt (RH), while one near Lowden, *Walla Walla* 26 Jan was at a new location (MMD). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at four Puget Trough/Willamette Valley sites, where not annual during winter. A huge blackbird flock near Othello 28 Dec contained a Washington-record 5000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a record-tying 15,000 Red-winged Blackbirds (RH). Single Bullock's Orioles near Sequim, *Clallam* 9-10 Dec (D. Myers) and at Westport 29-30 Dec added to 11 prior Washington winter reports.

A tally of 91 Purple Finches at Skagit W.M.A. 15 Dec eclipsed Washington's prior high count (SM), while a Purple at North Richland through Jan (BW) was in far e. Washington, where rare. Cassin's Finches were unusually common along and near the Cascade crest in Washington, with maxima of 100 at Stevens Pass 3 Jan (RM) and 40 at Trout L., *Klickitat* 15 Dec (K. Hadley, D. P. Anderson). Interestingly, almost none wandered farther westward, represented only by singles at Portland 8 Dec (A. Frank) and Rockport, *Skagit* 25 Jan (J. Alt). White-winged Crossbills swarmed across n. Washington highlands, with a maximum of 150 at Stevens Pass 21 Feb (RM). Notably, a pair was seen carrying nesting material there 23 Feb (S. Schick, M. Fleming); Washington has no confirmed breeding reports of this species. Three White-winged near McKenzie Bridge, *Lane* 26 Feb were the only ones found in Oregon (C&MM). Common Redpolls were numerous in e. Washington w. to the Cascade

crest, where 120 were encountered at Stevens Pass 21 Feb (RM). Two well-documented Hoary Redpolls visited Muskrat L., *Okanogan* 24 Dec, furnishing the Region's first report in six years (S. Schlick, M. Fleming). Lesser Goldfinch numbers seem to be rapidly increasing. At the nw. edge of their range, 50 at Portland 6 Feb would have been unthinkable 25 years ago (S. Reams). In e. Washington, this species was confined to *Klickitat* until about 10 years ago, but vagrants this winter included singles at two *Yakima* sites (DG), 10 near Asotin 12 Jan (T. Gray), 10 more at Nisqually John Canyon, *Asotin* 17 Jan (T. Gray), and one at Richland 26 Jan (R. Johnson). Evening Grosbeaks continued to be numerous in the n. Cascades, with 350 at Stevens Pass 3 Jan (RM).

Addendum: The Oregon B.R.C. was presented with superb photographic and artistic renderings of a Jack Snipe shot by a hunter, Greg Stender, near Florence, *Lane* 16 Nov 2007. More extraordinary was that Stender had shot and similarly documented a previous Jack Snipe at this location 20 Oct 2004. Both records have been accepted by the Oregon B.R.C. The five antecedent North American records are of singles in Washington in Sep, one in n. California late Nov–early Dec, two at St. Paul I., Alaska during spring, and Newfoundland in Dec.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Tom Aversa (Washington), Range Bayer (Lincoln), Craig Corder (Spokane), Mike & MerryLynn Denny (M&MD), Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, Daniel Farrar, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (Crook), Roy Gerig (Polk, Marion), Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston (Klickitat), Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Ryan Merrill, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller (Deschutes, Jefferson), Russ Namitz, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Clarence and Marilyn O'Leary (Grant, OR), Michael Patterson (Clatsop), W. Doug Robinson (Benton, Linn, Marion), Tim Rodenkirk (Coos, Curry), Doug Schonewald, Ryan T. Shaw, Kevin Spencer (Klamath), Andy Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, David Tracey, Dennis Vroman (Josephine), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☉

Steven Mlodinow, Puget Sound Bird Observatory
5501 17th Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105
(SGMlod@aol.com)

David Irons, 2125 Hayes Street
Eugene, Oregon 97045, (llsdirons@msn.com)

Bill Tweit, P.O. Box 1271
Olympia, Washington 98507, (sebnabgill@aol.com)



Ed Pandolfino
Steve Rottenborn
Michael M. Rogers
Steven A. Glover

While there were some excellent rarities, like a Smew returning for the second consecutive winter, a well-documented Arctic Loon, a possible first winter record of Glossy Ibis for the state, and a Baikal Teal that will only appear on the life list of the hunter who shot it, this season was more about quantity. Cackling Goose numbers continue to impress, and sizable flocks showed up outside of their usual strongholds this season. White-winged Scoters, a species whose declines have caused serious concern, were present in encouraging numbers. Canvasbacks were abundant for the second consecutive winter. Rough-legged Hawks made one of their most impressive showings since the 1990s. Increased attention to gulls may be partly responsible for the impressive numbers of "coastal" species like Western, Thayer's, and Glaucous Gulls being reported inland. After one of the lowest turnouts ever for Lewis's Woodpeckers last winter, numbers this year were the highest seen since the winter of 2002-2003. A single flock of Lapland Longspurs, conservatively estimated at over 2000, may well be the largest ever found in our Region.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); C.V. (Central Valley); Fl. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., Alameda); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded at Big Sur R.

mouth are credited to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wildlife Society.

WATERFOWL

An unusual coastal northbound movement of geese was noted 13 Jan. Seven flocks over Alviso, Santa Clara between 11:20 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. included 174 Greater White-fronted Geese, 163 Snow Geese, and 35 Ross's Geese (MMR, MJM, RGJ); 119 White-fronteds in two mid-morning flocks over H.R.S. was the highest count ever for that location (RJR); two flocks over Coyote Ridge n. of Morgan Hill, Santa Clara at 2:30 p.m. included 304 Snow Geese (Ryan Phillips). Two Emperor Geese were reported, neither with documentation. Coastal blue-morph Snow Geese included 6 s. of Sonoma, Sonoma 28 Dec (DgSh) and an ad. in Gilroy, Santa Clara 11 Dec (WGB). Brant inside S.F. Bay included the continuing bird at Miller/Knox R.S., Contra Costa through 2 Feb (Laura Look, FrO), and Alameda birds at Alameda 16 Dec (fide RJR) and at Coyote Hills R.P. 11 Feb (MJM). Cackling Geese were widely reported in record numbers. A remarkable 90,000 Aleutians were estimated in the greater Humboldt Bay area, Humboldt in Feb (fide Kyle Spragens). At least 800 Cacklers on the Holland Tract 19 Dec (SAG, JTz, JsC) was a very high count for Contra Costa, and 247 at H.R.S. 22 Jan was the most ever recorded there (RJR). One at

Swans included a record count of 18 in Santa Cruz 2 Jan (Scott Smithson et al.), with a few lingering there until 23 Feb (m.ob.).

Eurasian Wigeon in less expected locations included a male near Keystone, Tuolumne 29 Dec (SUM) and one wintering at L. Success, Tulare through 16 Feb, with 2 present there 19 Jan (m.ob.). An ad. male Baikal Teal shot by a hunter near Loleta 21 Jan (Mike McCluskey, ph. SWH) was the first for Humboldt and only the 4th for the Region, the last occurring 20 years ago. Eighteen Eurasian Teal in 10 counties included only the 2nd or 3rd for Santa Cruz, at Struve Slough 7 Jan (ADeM). Surprisingly, a group of 8 Canvasbacks at Ewing Res. 17 Feb (JSL) furnished only the 12th record for Trinity. Redhead numbers continue to increase at favored wintering locations, with high counts of 405 in s. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 15 Dec (MWa) and 402 in Alviso 2 Dec (record high for Santa Clara; MMR, RGJ); numbers dwindled at both locations after mid-Jan. The male Ring-necked Duck x Greater Scaup hybrid found last winter 17 Dec 2006 at L. Hennessey, Napa returned 18 Nov-5 Dec (MBE, FHa); also present there was the continuing Tufted Duck 1-5 Dec (MBE). Other Tufted Ducks included the continuing ad. male at L. Merritt, Alameda through the period (m.ob.), an ad. male at Borax L., Lake 15 Dec-5 Jan (FHa), one at L. Chabot, Solano 1 Jan (RMu), and an imm. male at the O'Neill



Like all but one of California's Baikal Teal, this drake was shot by a hunter, in this case on 21 January 2008 near Loleta, Humboldt County. Photograph by Stanley W. Harris.

Lewiston L. 17 Feb (JSL) was one of few ever found in Trinity. A calling ad. Trumpeter Swan was at Modoc N.W.R., Modoc 2 Dec (†SCR); 4 ad. Bewick's Swans were there 23 Feb (ph. SCR). A family group of 4 Bewick's was 8 km n. of Likely, Modoc 20 Jan (ph. TCo). A smattering of cen. coast Tundra

Forebay, Merced 16 Feb (Bob Power et al.). Schwan L. hosted 173 Greater Scaup 19 Jan (DLSu), a record count for Santa Cruz. Among inland reports of this species was one of 2 birds at Woodlake S.T.P., Tulare 3 Jan+ (JCS, TaE, SDS, Tony Kurz). Scoter numbers continued to be impressive into winter. High Surf



After several tantalizing undocumented sight reports, San Mateo County, California finally got its first well-documented Crested Caracara record, an immature being harassed by ravens at Año Nuevo State Reserve 14 February 2008. Photograph by Ruth Dundas Schmidt.

Scoter counts included 1120 at Mountain View's Shoreline L., *Santa Clara* 7 Dec (MJM) and 1100 at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, *Contra Costa* 15 Dec (SAG); more amazing was a group of 11 female-plumaged birds at L. Success 8 Dec (JLt, Tony Kurz, Justin Ward, ph. Gary Lindquist), only the 3rd record for *Tulare*. Counts of 200+ White-winged Scoters included 201 at McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 15 Dec (KMS), 200 at Stone Lagoon, *Humboldt* 17 Feb (OsJ), 200+ in coastal *Sonoma* 7 Feb (JSL), and 215 at Sunset S.B. 12 Feb (DLSu), a modern record for *Santa Cruz*, where high counts in recent years have been of fewer than 10 birds. Ad. male Harlequin Ducks continued in the vicinity of Heron's Head Park, S.E. (m.ob.) and at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* (RSTh, AME). Long-tailed Ducks were reported in greater-than-average numbers, with at least 36 in 10 counties, all coastal or in S.E. Bay except *Tulare*'s first, a female at Bartlett C.P. 8 Dec (JLt, Tony Kurz, Justin Ward, ph. Gary Lindquist); 11 was the highest total ever in *Monterey* (fide DR). Barrow's Goldeneyes from unusual inland locations included a female at Dorris Res., *Modoc* 1 Dec (SCR), 2 males and a female n. of Likely, *Modoc* 9 Feb (ph. SCR), and Glenn's first, a male near Capay 11 Jan (†MRg). A count of 34+ Barrow's at Lewiston L. 17 Feb (JSL) was a record number for *Trinity*. The male hybrid Hooded Merganser × Barrow's Goldeneye at L. Merritt, *Alameda* was seen through 2 Feb (JMD). An ad. male Smew visited a small pond e. of Standard, *Tuolumne* 5 Jan–13 Feb (ph. Pamela Blair, SUM); this location is only 8 km s. of Soulsbyville, where one spent 20–29 Jan 2007, and the same individual is likely involved.

Perhaps also the same bird, a male Smew was seen with Hooded Mergansers at a small pond along Priest–Coulterville Rd., *Tuolumne* near the *Mariposa* line 29 Dec (Larry Resetar, Dan Maxwell, Dale Morejon). Clifton Court Forebay hosted 1000 Common Mergansers 6 Jan (DSW), a new high count for *Contra Costa*. Reports of Common Mergansers on salt water continue to increase, with this drawing comment in *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Santa Clara*. Conversely, several inland Red-breasted Mergansers were reported, including a continuing bird at L. Success, *Tulare* well into Jan (m.ob.) and a female

along White Rock Rd., *Mariposa* 7 Dec (Lowell Young).

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon at Camanche Res., *San Joaquin/Calaveras* 29 Dec–5 Mar (†DGY, JSL) provided a 2nd record for the latter county; 13–16 in *Santa Clara* 2 Dec–15 Feb was a good showing away from the immediate coast. *Humboldt*'s first (and the Region's 4th) Arctic Loon was an ad. at Stone Lagoon 12 Feb+ (WT, ph., †RbF, ph., †KGR). A juv. Yellow-billed Loon was off the Pacific Grove, *Monterey* coastline 25 Jan–2 Feb (RT). Five inland Pacific Loons, all in *Siskiyou*, *Trinity*, and *Shasta*, was a typical winter showing. More unusual were single Red-necked Grebes away from tidal water in *Sacramento*, *Siskiyou*, *San Joaquin*, *Contra Costa*, and *San Mateo*. Tubenoses were scarce, with no high numbers reported. The Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* Laysan Albatross returned for its 15th winter 7 Dec–27 Feb (T. Reid, m.ob.). Another was seen from shore just outside the Golden Gate, S.E. 8–16 Feb (†BFi, †LLu, CLu). Single Northern Fulmars off Oyster Pt., *San Mateo* 20 Jan (RSTh) and Oakland, *Alameda* 25 Jan (Lishka Arata) were rare inside S.E. Bay. A Manx Shearwater was off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 28 Dec (†RbF, RgW et al.), and *Humboldt*'s 3rd was off *Humboldt* Bay 15 Dec (†BS). After a good showing last winter, only 4 Black-vented Shearwaters were reported, all from *Monterey*: one off Pt. Pinos 4 Dec (AB) and 3 on *Monterey* Bay 28 Dec (RgW, RT). High pelican counts included 1650 American Whites on Clear L., *Lake* 15 Dec and 2500 Browns at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 28 Dec (GJS). A frigatebird at Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* 25 Dec (Ed Ver-

muelen) may have been the juv. Magnificent picked up 5 Jan near Healdsburg, *Sonoma* after a storm, rehabilitated, and released 5 Feb on Santa Catalina I. (fide BBu).

The only Least Bittern reported was at Coyote Hills R.P., *Alameda* 17 Feb (Bob Dunn). The ad. Little Blue Heron continued through the season near Ft. Dick, *Humboldt* (m.ob.). Up to 4 Cattle Egrets along Brewer Rd. 27 Dec–15 Jan were a rare find for *Placer* (BED, m.ob.). Two ad. Glossy Ibis seen e. of Trowbridge in both *Placer* and *Sutter* 16 Feb (TEa, SAbb, Scott Hoppe) would be the first and 2nd for these two counties, respectively, and the first winter record for the state if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Remarkably, another possible Glossy Ibis was found the next day e. of Santa Nella, *Merced* (ph. JCS, ph. SAG). White-faced Ibis had the strongest winter showing ever in *Santa Cruz*, with up to 14 (a winter record) on 27 Dec in the lower Pajaro Valley area; 2 or 3 birds remained through 23 Feb (m.ob.). The only other coastal report was of 6 ibis in nearby *Monterey* 11 Dec (RF, LGo, JPo). An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at Alturas 9 Feb (SCR) was the first in winter for *Modoc*. A Broad-winged Hawk in Arcata 17 Jan (†JEH) was about the 4th for *Humboldt*, although previous records lack documentation. The Carmel, *Monterey* ad. Zonetailed Hawk was seen again 23 Dec (Rob Colwell). Three Harlan's Hawks were reported from *Humboldt*, one near Arcata 14 Dec+ (KGR, RbF, m.ob.), the county's first light-morph bird near Arcata 10–15 Feb (ad.; †RbF), and one near Ferndale 27 Feb (ph., †RbF, MWa). Other Harlan's included a returning bird along Hwy. 33 in s. *Kings* 25 Dec (JLx), one n. of Lincoln, *Placer* 3–24 Jan (BWb, EP), and an intermediate morph ad. that wintered in the Coyote Valley, *Santa Clara* 5 Jan–28 Feb (ph. Ryan Phillips, ph. SCR, m.ob.). Rough-legged Hawks continued to be well reported, with 28–30 birds in *Humboldt* alone (fide RbF), and smaller numbers s. along the coast to *San Mateo*, *Alameda*, *Santa Clara*, and *Monterey*. Ten times the average number were noted from *Madera* (fide GaW). The renegade Yellow-headed Caracara was seen again near Ferndale, *Humboldt* 30 Dec (JCe, Owen Head). The Del Norte Crested Caracara continued near Ft. Dick, with reports 31 Jan and 1 Feb (fide ADB); the only report from *Humboldt* was from Ferndale 30 Dec (ad.; RBS et al.). Farther s., *San Mateo*'s first documented record was an imm. at Año Nuevo S.R. 14 Feb (Edward Lambing, ph. Ruth Dundas Schmidt); perhaps the same bird was reported at Pogonip, *Santa Cruz* 27 Feb (ph. Jason Henderson et al.). A Yellow Rail flooded out by high tides at Arrowhead

Marsh, *Alameda* 20-21 Jan was enjoyed by many (John Dunec, ph. Bob Power, ph. m.ob.). A Greater Sandhill Crane at Modoc N.W.R. 29 Dec (SCR) was apparently the first true winter record for *Modoc*.

Two Pacific Golden-Plovers sw. of Madera 1 Feb (JSL) constituted about the 3rd *Madera* record. The count of Mountain Plovers in e. *Solano* peaked 10 Feb at 230 (Jennifer Rycenga, Peggy Macres). Other reports consisted of 100 near Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 26 Feb (SSa, Dave Froba), a high of 85 s. of Madera, *Madera* 9 Dec (GaW), and 8 e. of Mendota, *Fresno* 4 Feb (JSy). The Region's 5th winter Solitary Sandpiper, the 2nd from an inland location, was found ne. of Planada, *Merced* 2 Feb (ph. Jim Dunn, Nancy Sage). Wandering Tattler reports consisted of only singles from *Humboldt*, *Mendocino*, *Alameda*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz*, with three subregional editors commenting on the rarity of this species in recent winters. Likewise drawing comment, coastal Ruddy Turnstones were scarce, with singles in *Humboldt* and *San Mateo*, none found in *Santa Cruz* for the first time in modern history, and 2 in *Monterey*. In contrast, S.F. Bay had 2 each in *Contra Costa* and *San Francisco*, and numerous reports from *San Mateo* and *Alameda*, with one-day high counts of 20 and 11 there, respectively. A smattering of Lesser Yellowlegs reports included notable counts of 9 in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 16 Dec (ph. WGB, Jim Thomas) and 7 along Lakeville Hwy., *Sonoma* 28 Dec (Peter Colasanti); *Mariposa*'s first was along White Rock Rd. 2 km from the *Merced* line 3 Feb (†ADeM). Southerly Rock Sandpipers included the continuing *Santa Cruz* bird (m.ob.) and one returning to Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 3 Dec–12 Jan (†GDg et al.). A female Ruff at the Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 19 Jan+ (Laura Look, Pete Epanchin) was joined by a male 27 Feb+ (SCH). A Red Phalarope at L. Success 8 Dec (ph. JLt, Tony Kurz, Justin Ward) was about the 3rd for *Tulare*.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Intensive gull-watching at inland locations, including an organized survey of the San Joaquin Valley 16-17 Feb, paid dividends with higher-than-normal numbers of inland gull reports. A Bonaparte's Gull at Topaz L. 10 Dec (Graham Chisholm) provided a rare winter record for *Mono*. Heermann's Gulls rarely stray from the immediate coast, so one on Almaden L., *Santa Clara* 8-9 Dec (FV, RWR, PKe, RKe) was noteworthy. Inland Mew Gulls included *Mono*'s 2nd or 3rd record at Crowley L. 1 Dec (JLD et al.) and 4 in the C.V. Large numbers of Thayer's Gulls at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* starting in mid-Dec peaked at 260-300 on 20 Jan (TEa); 175+ at Ferndale

Bottoms, *Humboldt* 1 Feb (RbF, MWa) was high for that location. Typically rare in the San Joaquin Valley, Thayer's were represented by a remarkable 30 at the Fresno County Landfill, *Fresno* 17 Feb (JSy, GaW, JND), *Madera*'s first (2 birds) at the Fairmead Landfill 29 Jan (GaW), and 16 more in *Tulare*, *Merced*, and *Kings*. A first-cycle Iceland Gull was at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 22 Dec (ph. SCH). Four others were reported without convincing details. It was an excellent



This apparent Glossy Ibis near Santa Nella, Merced County 17 February 2008 and two other Central Valley birds seen the day before would be the first winter records of this expanding species for California if accepted by the California Bird Records Committee. Photograph by John C. Sterling.

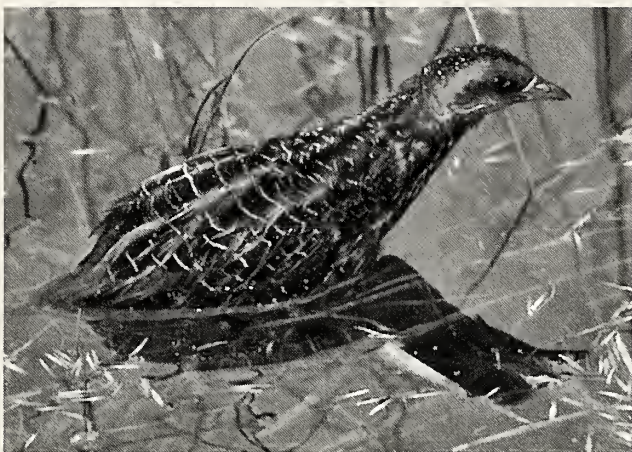
winter for Glaucous Gulls, with 50 (mostly imms., as usual) in 16 counties beginning 2 Dec. *Humboldt* and *Santa Clara* hosted 7-10 and 8, respectively. Birds away from coastal/estuarine areas included 3-5 in *Yolo* 22 Dec–16 Feb (SCH, WEH, TEa), *Tulare*'s first record at the Alpaugh Irrigation District pond 23 Dec–mid-Jan (ph. SAG et al.), *Fresno*'s 3rd at the Fresno County Landfill 17 Feb (JSy, ph. GaW, JND), and singles at Jepson Prairie Preserve, *Solano* 1 Jan+ (RMu) and Folsom L., *Placer* 8 Feb (Scott Hoppe, DeR, EP et al.). Apparently increasing in the C.V. in recent decades, 10 Glaucous-winged Gulls were in *Merced*, *Fresno*, and *Tulare*, and 9 Western Gulls were in *Placer*, e. *Contra Costa*, *Sacramento*, and *Merced*, with at least 9 more at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 22 Dec–20 Jan (SCH, TEa). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Folsom L. 7 Feb (DeR, ph. TEa) would be *Placer*'s 2nd, and the 3rd for the C.V., pending

C.B.R.C. acceptance. Another ad. was in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 16 Dec and 13 Jan (†SCR, ph., †MMR). An apparent first-cycle Vega Herring Gull was well documented at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 8-9 Jan (ph., †RbF, KMS, DFx, ph. KGR, Rachel Smith). Reports of 9 Slaty-backed Gulls (all subject to C.B.R.C. review) included the first from *Santa Cruz*, a second-cycle bird at Harkins Slough and Sunset S.B. 26 Jan (ph. TEa). In *Del Norte*, 2 ads. were in the Smith R. bottoms 4-8 Feb (Lucas Brug, ADB, m.ob.), one lingering through the end of the period. In *Humboldt*, a fourth-cycle bird was at the Redwood Cr. mouth 19 Jan (†Jeff Allen), a third-cycle bird at Ferndale Bottoms 1 Feb (ph., †RbF, MWa, TWL), and an ad. at McKinleyville 1 Feb–8 Mar (†Larry Maurin, ph., †KGR, †KBu). An ad. in Fremont 18 Jan and 4 Mar (†MJM) provided *Alameda*'s 2nd record. At Venice S.B., *San Mateo*, the site of most Regional records the past two winters, different third-cycle individuals were documented 16 Feb (†RSTh, ph. DSg, ph. MDo) and 20 Feb (AJ).

A Caspian Tern in Pacifica, *San Mateo* 9 Dec (JM) was a late migrant. At *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt*, the only Regional location where the species regularly winters, 8 on 20 Dec at King Salmon (MWa) declined to one through most of the winter. Were 11 at the Elk R. mouth in Eureka, *Humboldt* 8 Feb (Owen Head) and one at Richardson Bay, *Marin* 28 Feb (Bob Hinz) early migrants or wintering birds? The Black Skimmer flock at Mountain View, *Santa Clara* numbered 36 on 17 Dec (ph. WGB) but dwindled through Jan. Other reports included singles at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 2 Jan (KVV) and Seabright Beach, *Santa Cruz* 29 Jan (Margaret Perham), up to 2 in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 5-23 Jan (Don Murphy, Sheila Dickie), and up to 13 in Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 14 Dec–12 Jan (Pat Boor, RSTh, JM). A Pigeon Guillemot at Brooks I., *Contra Costa* 30 Jan (†Bob Lewis) was rare inside S.F. Bay, especially in winter, and a Cassin's Auklet was equally unusual on s. *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 11 Dec (MWa).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Band-tailed Pigeon nestling at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 11 Feb provided a rare winter nest record for the Region (DLSu). A Greater Roadrunner at Talmage 1 Jan–10 Feb represented a rare *Mendocino* record for a species that is quite rare so far n. in the Region (ph. fide MMT). Single Burrowing Owls were noteworthy coastal finds at the Sutro Baths, S.F. 5 Jan–16 Feb (DPM, m.ob.) and Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 5-15 Feb (BDP, LLu, CLu, m.ob.). A Great Gray Owl picked up near Eureka 1 Dec later died in rehabilitation



A Yellow Rail forced out into the open by high tides at Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County, California 20 January 2008 was a surprise. Even more surprising was a repeat of the performance before a crowd of birders the next day, when this photograph was taken. Photograph by David E. Quady.

and furnished the 2nd record for *Humboldt* and the first since 1982 (*vide* TWL, Tamar Danufsky). A total of 44 Short-eared Owls along the "V Street Loop" in the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 15 Dec provided one of the highest counts in the Region in recent decades (ACB). Two Short-eareds at Anderson Marsh 15 Dec was a rare find for *Lake* (JRW). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was once again at Ryer I., *Solano* on the C.V. floor 21-29 Feb (RLCL, UzW, Raye Hansen, m.ob.). An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird, which at least attempted to winter at a McKinleyville, *Humboldt* feeder, was last noted 19 Jan (GSL). An estimated 250 Lewis's Woodpeckers, a sizable concentration for the Region, were around the ne. end of L. Berryessa, *Napa* 12 Jan (BDP). A female Williamson's Sapsucker at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 29 Dec-15 Feb (M. Strusis-Timmer, ph. DLSu, m.ob.) represented a 4th *Santa Cruz* record. At least 9 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included one at Lost L. 29 Jan-9 Feb (ph. JTz, EE, m.ob.) and another at Wildwood I. 25-29 Feb (BBR et al.), the first ones ever found in *Fresno*. The Lost L. bird strayed across the county line on 5 Feb, providing a 2nd *Madera* record (PFa). Eleven Red-naped Sapsuckers were detected. Two White-headed Woodpeckers found during the Mono Basin C.B.C., *Mono* 22 Dec were the first found on that count since 1987 (Paul McFarland, BrtM).

A well-watched *Empidonax* flycatcher near Cottonwood, *Tehama* 8-15 Feb (KMS, †COG, †CPD, †BED, ph. Ken Bachman, m.ob.) was thought to be a Least by most observers, but photographs reveal characteristics more consistent with Dusky. Either species would be remarkable for the location in winter, with Dusky nearly unprecedented for the Region. The lone Hammond's Flycatcher report was of

a bird at Dry Creek, *Tulare* 29 Dec (ph. Frank Lewis, George Glover). Five Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatchers were noted 1 Dec-1 Jan but none thereafter. Single Eastern Phoebees were at Mt. San Bruno C.P., *San Mateo* 12 Dec-13 Jan (Dominik Mosur, m.ob.) and Porterville, *Tulare* 6-7 Jan (2nd county record; SDS, ph. JLt). Vermilion Flycatchers were at Gray Lodge W.A., *Butte* through 22 Feb (continuing bird; ph. Gary Friege, RAR, m.ob.) and near Los Banos, *Merced* 26-29 Dec (male; Dale Azevedo, KVV, m.ob.). Tropical Kingbirds were at H.R.S. through at least 13 Jan (m.ob.), Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* 14 Dec (DLSu), the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 4-15 Dec (RbF, KGR), and Arcata, *Humboldt* 17 Dec (Larry Maurin). A mostly uncooperative Scissor-tailed Flycatcher graced the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 4-16 Dec (Claude Block *vide* B.S.O.L., ph. SRv et al.). Single Plumbeous Vireos were at Fremont, *Alameda* 16-17 Dec (Kirsten Holmquist, JSL) and Elk Grove Park, *Sacramento* 16-21 Jan (M. San Miguel, Jr., ph. CCo et al.). Cassin's Vireos were at Eureka, *Humboldt* 14-15 Dec (continuing bird; RbF) and Ripon, *San Joaquin* 26 Feb (D. Gilman). The now customary northward push of Barn Swallows between mid-Dec and mid-Jan was noted once again, with 110 individuals tallied, almost exclusively in coastal counties. A notable exception to this was a report of 3 individuals 28 Dec-11 Jan near Montague in chilly Siskiyou (S. Nelson, J. Flett, D. Shutteroff, MFRb). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow, an almost inconceivable winter find less than a decade ago, was at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, *Sacramento* 30 Dec (†WEH). Out-of-place Mountain Chickadees were at Lost L., *Fresno* 12 Dec-15 Feb (JTz, Mark Dettling, m.ob.), Pope Valley, *Napa* 1 Jan (2nd county record; Rsa, PBu), and *Sacramento*, *Sacramento* 28-30 Jan (JSL, JLx et al.). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet 23 Dec at the Wilson Cr. delta was very late for *Mono* (CMc). A Townsend's Solitaire at *Sacramento*, *Sacramento* 19-23 Jan provided a rare winter record for the C.V. (LJE, KvG, ClH, EP). A Hermit Thrush at the Wilson Cr. delta, *Mono* 23 Dec was a rare winter find for the Mono Basin (CMc). The Springville C.B.C. turned up *Tulare's* 2nd Gray Catbird 15-16 Dec (Tony Kurz, ph. SDS). A Northern Mockingbird in

Alturas 23 Dec (with 2 on 29 Dec) and a Sage Thrasher near Goose L. 26 Dec (all ph. SCR) represent very rare winter records for *Modoc*. A Le Conte's Thrasher at Fish Slough 4 Jan (ADeM) was the first winter record for *Mono*, though the fact that they breed here suggests local residency (*vide* KNN). We had a mini-invasion of Bohemian Waxwings, with reports from four locations in three counties: Paradise, *Mono* 22 Dec (2; DHo, JLD); Goose L., *Modoc* 26 Dec (2; SCR); Simis Ranch, *Mono* 2 Jan (5; KNN); and Chilcoot, *Plumas* 18 Jan (87; TCo, Jim White, Roger Hensaw).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Our only Tennessee Warbler reports came from S.E., one at Ft. Mason 25 Dec (MWE) and the other in Cole Valley 1 Jan (PSar). Ten of 11 Nashville Warblers were coastal with 2 each in *Humboldt*, *Sonoma*, and *San Mateo*; 3 in *Monterey*; and one in *Santa Cruz*. The only inland Nashville record was from Lodi, *San Joaquin* 16 Dec (DGY), likely a Dec first for that county. In a season otherwise devoid of rarer warblers, the Lucy's Warbler found 28 Dec near Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* (RSTh) was a stand out. Our only Northern Parula, present 1-14 Dec on the American R. Parkway, *Sacramento* (ClH, m.ob.), was probably a holdover from fall (*vide* JML). Yellow Warblers were in Arcata, *Humboldt* 15 Dec (ACB), along Pilarcitos Cr., *San Mateo* 16 Dec (AdW), and at C.R.P. 2 Jan (JTr). *Santa Cruz* had both our Black-throated Blues, with males in *Santa Cruz* 11 Dec (TN) and at New Brighton S.B. 15 Dec (DLSu). Two Hermit Warblers in the C.V. were remarkable winter records. One was at C.R.P. 3 Jan (JTr) and the other in Lodi, *San Joaquin* 28 Jan (DGY). *San Mateo* hosted 4 Hermits, and singles were in *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz*. A Blackburnian Warbler in Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* through 14 Dec (BMMo, DLSu) was a continuing fall bird. All 30 Palm Warblers were coastal except for *Napa's* first 19 Dec-15 Feb at Sheehy Cr. (MBe) and a 2nd in *Napa* 1-12 Jan (DvH, DeH, m.ob.). There were 3 Black-and-white Warblers in *Humboldt*, 2 in *Santa Clara*, and one each in *Monterey* and *San Joaquin*. An American Redstart near Knightsen 19 Dec (†JTz, JsC, SAG) made the 2nd winter record for *Contra Costa*. A redstart first seen in fall at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* (m.ob.) continued throughout the period and another found during the C.B.C. at the Alice Street Community Gardens, *San Francisco* 12 Dec continued through 27 Dec (*vide* MWE). For the 5th year in a row, a Northern Waterthrush was at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 15 Dec+ (EE), and for the 7th consecutive year a Northern Waterthrush wintered at the Charleston Rd. marsh, *Santa Clara*. Two Wilson's Warblers

were in *San Mateo* 16 Dec: one at Pilarcitos Cr. (AdW) and one at El Granada (Ken King). Singles were at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 28 Dec (Cho, BHi), near Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* 1 Jan (DLEk et al.), and L. Cunningham, *Santa Clara* 5-26 Feb (WGB, m.ob.). Of the 3 Summer Tanagers in *Santa Cruz*, the one at Natural Bridges S.B. through 20 Dec (AGa, m.ob.) was considered a fall holdover. The county's others were singles in Rio Del Mar 28 Dec (DLSu) and La Selva Beach 24 Feb+ (Freddy Menge). Additional Summer Tanagers were in Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* 20-27 Jan (Ann Harwood, BBu) and at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 26 Jan (RSTh).

The Green-tailed Towhee found in Rancho Cordova, *Sacramento* 25 Nov (TaE, TEa) remained throughout the winter. An American Tree Sparrow found 26 Nov remained at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* through 15 Dec (Frank Anderson). At least 5 American Tree Sparrows were near Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc* 26-28 Dec (SCR), with 2 still present 10 Feb (SCR). First found in fall, the large flock of Chipping Sparrows in San Jose, *Santa Clara* continued through winter (JPa, m.ob.). Also in *Santa Clara*, another Chipping was near Calero Creek Trail 11 Feb (JPa, Sue Van Stee, AV), 4 were in *Humboldt*, and 2 more in *Sonoma*. Clay-colored Sparrows were in Benicia, *Solano* 17 Dec-15 Feb (Phil Gulley, RLCL, RMu), Fremont, *Alameda* 24 Dec+ (Charles Woodrum), and along the San Lorenzo R., *Santa Cruz* 7 Jan-11 Feb (SGe, Phil Brown, m.ob.). The only Brewer's Sparrow report came from near Tolay, *Sonoma* 28 Dec (Peter Colasanti). Black-throated Sparrows were in Springville, *Tulare* 15 Dec-mid Jan (Tony Kurz), Panoche Hills, *Fresno* 21 Jan (Rick Skehen), and Redway, *Humboldt* 26 Jan (Steve Jessum, fide RLeV). A Sage Sparrow 1 Dec at Crowley L., *Mono* (JLD) was the 2nd winter record for the Mono Basin. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from S.E. Bay, with one at Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 21-25 Dec (RKe, PKe, TGr, m.ob.) and 21 Jan (MMR, MJM, RGJ, m.ob.) and another at H.R.S. 3 Feb (RJR). Of the 21 Swamp Sparrows reported, the only inland bird was near Lost L., *Fresno* 27 Dec-31 Jan (JSy, Bruce Williford, m.ob.). Our total of 133 White-throated Sparrows came from 13 different counties. *San Benito's* first Harris's Sparrow was in Panoche Valley 31 Dec (CKf). *Mendocino's* 4th continued from fall, and a 5th record was in Ft. Bragg 8-11 Dec (Michael & Marybeth Arago, DT). Harris's Sparrows were also in Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* 25 Dec (Don Kirker), Sierraville, *Sierra* 29 Dec (CPD, BBg), Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc* 29 Dec (ph. SCR), Montara, *San Mateo* 31 Dec (RSTh), Arcata, *Humboldt*

12 Jan (ph. Zachary Loman), and Lema Ranch, *Shasta* 5 Feb (Chet Morgan, KMS, m.ob.). A flock of 2000 Lapland Longspurs at Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 24 Jan (RE et al.) was likely the largest ever recorded in the Region. Glenn's first Snow Bunting was present ne. of Willows 1-7 Dec (JHS, KPa, ph. JCS, †BED, m.ob.).

All 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were coastal, with 2 in *Monterey* and one each in *Marin*, S.F., *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz*. Nine Black-headed Grosbeaks was an unusually high number, and reports were scattered through eight counties: 2 from *Santa Clara* and singles in *Siskiyou*, *Mendocino*, *Marin*, *Yolo*, *Santa Cruz*, *Monterey*, and *Tuolumne*. An Indigo Bunting at the Big Sur R. mouth 27 Dec (ph. RbF) was the 4th winter record for *Monterey*. An Orchard Oriole was at Ft. Mason, S.F. 15 Dec-19 Jan (HuC); a Hooded Oriole returned for its 3rd winter to a feeder in Menlo Park, *San Mateo* 6 Dec-4 Jan (PKB); and an undetermined Hooded/Orchard Oriole was in *Sacramento*, *Sacramento* 22-24 Dec (JTr, ADeM, ph. CCo). Two Bullock's Orioles were in *Humboldt*, one in McKinleyville 4 Dec (JEH) and the other in Loleta 30 Dec (DFx, JCP). *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* hosted 2 Bullock's, one 14 Jan-7 Feb (ph. SGe) and the other 24 Jan (ph. Larry Selman). Cassin's Finches showed up in a number of unexpected low-altitude locations, including one in Friant, *Fresno* 12 Dec (JTz, Mark Dettling), 4 in Lodi, *San Joaquin* 1 Jan (Dave Croft, fide DGY), 3 in Auburn, *Placer* 10-13 Jan (ph. DeR), one in Davis, *Yolo* 29 Jan-1 Feb (MP, †CLH), 2 in Placerville, *El Dorado* 29 Jan (†Ginny Hupp), and a single male at Big Basin S.P., *Santa Cruz* 27 Feb (DLSu).

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson (*Yolo*), Alan Baldridge (AB), Alan D. Barron (ADB) (*Del Norte*), Bob Battigan, Murray Berner (*Napa*), William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Penelope K. Bowen, Beverly Brock, Adam C. Brown, Betty Burridge, Ken Burton, Phil Burton, Joe Ceriani, Josiah Clark, Terry Colborn, Luke Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Hugh Cotter, J. Michael Danzenbaker, Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Gary Deghi, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham, Matthew Dodder, Jon L. Dunn, Tanner Easterla, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Leo J. Edson, Alan M. Eisner, David L. Ekdahl, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Peter Fahey, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF; *Humboldt*), Alexander Gaguine, Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Lois Goldfrank, Tom Grey, Kevin Guse, David

Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Cliff Hawley, Floyd Hayes, Bob Hirt, Craig Hohenberger, Debbie House, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard Jeffers, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Roland Kenner, Pat Kenny, Jeri M. Langham, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Chris McCreedy, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Bartshe Miller, Bryan M. Mori, Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Roger Muskat, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Todd Newberry, Chet Ogan, Frances Oliver (*San Joaquin*), Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Janna Pauser, Michael Perrone, Jeff Poklen, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power, Robert W. Reiling, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Michael F. Robbins, Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Michael Rogner, Deren Ross, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Salvatore Salerno, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Rusty Scalf, Jeff Seay, Doug Shaw, Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slausen, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Brad Stovall (*Lassen*), Gary J. Strachan, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Robert B. Sutherland, Richard Ternullo, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Ronald S. Thorn, James R. Tietz (F.I.), Dorothy Tobkin, Walter Tordoff, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Frank Vanslager, Ann Verdi, Matt Wachs, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Denise S. Wight, Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Uzelle Williams, Adam Winer, Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. 🌐

Ed Pandolfino (Thrashers to Finches)

5530 Delrose Court, Carmichael, California 95608
(erpfromca@aol.com)

Steve Rottenborn (Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)

H.T. Harvey & Associates
983 University Avenue, Building D
Los Gatos, California 95032
(srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

Michael M. Rogers

(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)
499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086
(m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

Steven A. Glover (Doves to Wrentit)

6526 Conestoga Lane, Dublin, California 94568
(countylin@sbcglobal.net)

Southern California



Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The Region's marked rainfall deficit was ameliorated somewhat by near-average to above-average precipitation in most areas. A lush growth of annual plants, dominated by invasive exotic species in many areas, complemented invigorated foliage in native shrubs after two years of exceptional drought. As we have noted before in these reports, the full impacts of dry and wet cycles are most noticeably expressed with a lag time measured in seasons or even years. During the current winter, irruptions—or lack thereof—of montane and boreal species were clearly governed by conditions well outside the Region. A moderate incursion of Mountain Chickadees, nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Pine Siskins, and Red Crossbills noted during the fall season continued through winter. Perhaps most striking was a late-winter influx of Cassin's Finches onto the northern deserts and even widely on the coastal slope, areas where the species is generally quite rare. Truly outstanding rarities were lacking.

Abbreviations: Furnace Creek Ranch (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); Piute Ponds (Piute Ponds, Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); San Jacinto (San Jacinto Wildlife Area and adjacent Mystic L. at Lakeview Riverside). Because most rarities in the Region are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list (<www.wfo-cbr.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology at Camarillo.

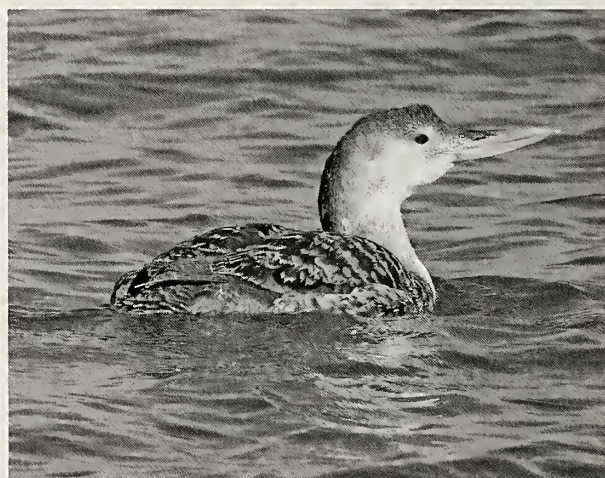
WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

At least 2 blue-morph Ross's Geese were with

white geese at S.E.S.S. 16 Dec–19 Jan (LS, GMcC). A Trumpeter Swan at Piute Ponds 23 Feb–9 Mar (TLJ) was one of a very few to have reached the Region. Five Tundra Swans at San Jacinto 23–28 Dec (RW), one at Blythe, Riverside 16 Feb (RH), and 5 others at S.E.S.S. 8 Jan–1 Mar (PDelp) were the southernmost of the few reports this winter. Eurasian Teal near El Monte, Los Angeles 15 Dec–2 Jan (MSanM), at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 1 Jan–17 Feb (MLS), and Upper Newport Bay, Orange 20 Jan (DRW) were probably returning birds from previous winters. The only Harlequin Ducks were a male that wintered near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo (TME) and a female off Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. Santa Barbara 3 Jan (WTF). Reports of inland Surf Scoters were 5 at L. Ming, Bakersfield, Kern 8–9 Dec (MMcQ), singles near Blythe 1 Dec (RH), at S.E.S.S. 18 Dec–2 Feb (OJ), L. Havasu, San Bernardino 11 Feb (BD), and 2 at N.E.S.S. 14–20 Feb (HBK, CMcG). Inland White-winged Scoters included up to 4 at Quail L., Los Angeles 8 Dec–4 Apr (JSF) and one at Castaic Lagoon, Los Angeles 29 Dec (KLG). Numbers of White-wingeds remained low along the coast, but 20 Black Scoters s. of Pt. Conception may be slightly above average. A Black Scoter at S.E.S.S. 18 Dec (OJ) and 25 Jan (BES) was most unusual inland. Long-tailed Ducks at Silverwood L., San Bernardino 8–12 Dec (SJM) and the Colorado R. below Parker Dam, San Bernardino 20 Dec–21 Mar (MS) and 18 Jan–20 Feb (BD) were inland, while 15 along the coast was about average.

An impressive 40,000 Pacific Loons flew past La Jolla, San Diego 1 Dec (TH). The 5 Common Loons at North Shore, Riverside 18 Jan (KL) were noteworthy, as there are only two previous Jan reports for the Salton Sink. A Yellow-billed Loon inland at L. Havasu 11 Jan (DJK) moved back and forth between Arizona and San Bernardino. More Red-necked Grebes than usual reached the Region, as suggested by 7 on the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura, along with single birds inland at Buena Vista L., Kern 25 Dec–22 Jan (SG), Castaic Lagoon 29 Dec–2 Feb (KLG), L. Isabella, Kern 30 Dec–10 Feb (SLS), L. Havasu 11 Jan–9 Feb (DJK), and Cachuma L., Santa Barbara 12 Jan (DMC). An estimated 150 Northern Fulmars off Port San Luis, San Luis Obispo 18 Jan (TME) suggested that more than usual moved

into the Region. A Buller's Shearwater at La Jolla 1 Dec (EA) was unexpected. A Manx Shearwater photographed 5 km sw. of Pt. Loma 9 Feb (TMCg, MS) provided the 2nd for San Diego. A Brown Booby was near Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo 1 Dec (MSanM), and another was off Imperial Beach, San Diego 4 Dec (DPo), the latter being close to the Los Coronados Is., where this species is now nesting. A recently dead Brown Pelican at Prado Basin, Riverside 5 Feb (JEP) was unexpected during winter. The ad. Neotropic Cormorant found near Seeley, Imperial 23 Nov was joined by another ad. 8–28 Dec (GMcC) and an imm. 3 Feb (TEW, LLA), with one ad. remaining until 16 Feb (GMcC).



This long-staying Yellow-billed Loon on Lake Havasu visited both the Arizona and the California portion of the lake; photographed here on 23 February 2008 on the San Bernardino County, California portion of the lake, it was the second to be found at this location. Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.

Tricolored Herons at San Diego and Imperial Beach, San Diego remained through the season (SBM, CH). The only Reddish Egrets n. of San Diego and Orange were one at P.M.N.A.S. through 29 Dec (DPe) and another inland at N.E.S.S. 3–8 Jan (GMcG). The pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons resident at Imperial Beach since 2005 was building a nest by the end of the season (GMcC), and the last of the 2007 young remained through 15 Mar (GMcC). A young Roseate Spoonbill at Santa Ana R., Orange, Orange 5–13 Dec (ES) moved upriver to near Norco, Riverside 13 Dec–21 Jan (MBau, HBK), and another at S.E.S.S. 15 Dec–26 Jan (BK, GMcC) was believed to be one of the 2 there in Nov. A Wood Stork at L. Hodges, San Diego 8–16 Feb (DN) was undoubtedly the same bird frequenting the nearby Wild Animal Park since 1986.

HAWKS THROUGH AUKLETS

A Harris's Hawk was at Rancho San Diego, San Diego 17 Jan (JH); another near Pala, San



These two adult Neotropic Cormorants photographed on 20 December 2007 were present at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, Imperial County, California through most of the month. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

Diego 8 Feb–4 Mar (SM) showed signs (shredded remiges) of having been in captivity. Four Swainson's Hawks at Borrego Springs, San Diego 7 Feb (HC) were the earliest spring migrants reported. Wintering Zone-tailed Hawks included at least 8 on the coastal slope from Ventura to San Diego and one inland near El Centro, Imperial 18 Jan–15 Feb (KZK); another at Borrego Springs 29 Feb (HC) was evidently on the move. A Harlan's Hawk, rare in the Region, was in the sw. Imperial Valley, Imperial 31 Jan–12 Mar (DRW). Single Rough-legged Hawks near Blythe 25 Nov–2 Feb (RH) and at San Jacinto 26 Feb–3 Mar (HBK) were the southernmost this winter. The Crested Caracara near Imperial Beach since 9 Sep 2006 again wintered (GMCC); another was at Mojave Narrows R.P. near Victorville, San Bernardino 19–28 Feb (DR, SJM).

A Sandhill Crane over Huntington Beach, Orange 11 Dec (GM) was far from any known area of regular occurrence. Reports of Pacific Golden-Plovers wintering on the coast were 5 at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara (OJ), 3 at Seal Beach, Orange (RS), at least one at Bolsa Chica most of the winter (BED), one at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego 22 Feb–10 Mar (SB), 2–3 near Imperial Beach (RTP), and a flock of 23 at San Clemente I. 2 Dec (JEB), along with one inland near Holtville, Imperial 12–13 Dec (DRW). Counts of Mountain Plovers included 164 at Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo (SDF), 53 at California Valley, San Luis Obispo (TME), 4 at Vandenberg A.F.B. (AA), up to 186 near Lancaster,

Los Angeles (MSanM), 7 at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino (BD), 5 at Seal Beach (RS), up to 55 at San Jacinto (LLaP), and 2955 (2–3 Feb) that wintered at Imperial Valley (KCM). Single apparent "pure" American Oystercatchers were at Laguna Beach, Orange 12 Jan–1 Feb (JEP), and La Jolla 2–17 Dec (JS) and 13 Feb (SW); American Oystercatcher × Black Oystercatcher hybrids were reported in Orange and San Diego. Ten Ruddy Turnstones inland at Red Hill, S.E.S.S. 23 Feb (GMCC) had probably wintered locally. The Ruff found at S.E.S.S. 2 Aug 2007 was still present 21 Mar (GMCC). A Red Phalarope at Castaic Lagoon 29 Jan (S&BT) was unexpected inland.

A subad. Pomarine Jaeger at S.E.S.S. 14 Jan (PEL) was not only one of a very few found inland in California but also the first during winter. A Franklin's Gull lingered at Spring Valley L., San Bernardino through 3 Dec (SLS), and another remained around Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 23 Nov–28 Jan (MDH). A Laughing Gull lingered at N.E.S.S. through 8 Jan (HBK), and at least 2 wintered at S.E.S.S. (GMCC). A Heermann's Gull continued at S.E.S.S. through 20 Dec (AEK), and an ad. was present there 21 Jan+ (DVP). Mew Gulls at Buena



This Dusky-capped Flycatcher in El Segundo, Los Angeles County, California was one of two present in Southern California in winter 2007–2008 (here 18 January, the day of its discovery). Photograph by Richard Barth.

Vista L. 1 Jan (JCW) and S.E.S.S. 24 Feb–1 Mar (HD) were the only 2 found in the e. Region. At least 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered at Salton Sea (GMCC, OJ, MBS, RMCK, N&MF); this inland body of water attracts more of these gulls than any other location in the west. A Western Gull at Buena Vista L. 27 Dec–22 Jan (TM) was only the 2nd in Kern. At least 7 Glaucous Gulls were along the coast, with singles inland at Piute Ponds 2

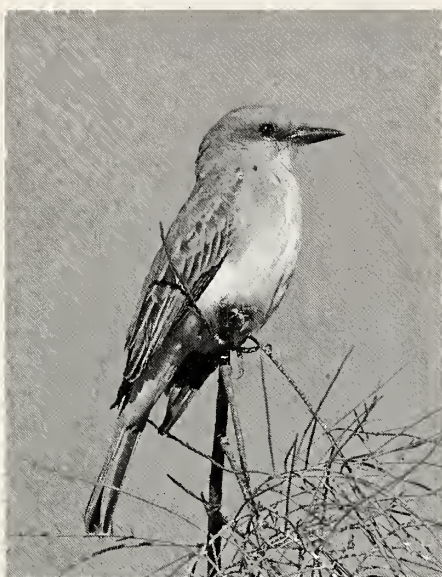


This Crested Caracara, apparently a subadult, was present at Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville, California 19–28 (here 28) February 2008 and establishes the first record for San Bernardino County. Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.

Dec–4 Jan (MSanM), Castaic Lagoon 1 Jan–22 Feb (MAS), and S.E.S.S. 17 Feb (KHL). Single Ancient Murrelets off San Diego 15 Dec (DP) and at Mission Beach, San Diego 11 Feb (Project Wildlife, *fide* MF) were at the s. limit of their winter range. Rhinoceros Auklets appeared in greater numbers than expected off s. California, with 850 off Port San Luis 18 Jan (TME) and 175 seen off San Diego 1 Jan (TH).

PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at Finney L., Imperial 16 Dec (LS) and nearby Calipatria 18 Dec (CAM) were locally rare. White-winged Doves at Ventura 6 Jan (RMCM) and Lompoc, Santa Barbara 14 Jan–29 Mar (PR) were on the coast, where rare. Single Ruddy Ground-Doves at El Centro and Finney L. 16 Dec (BED, LB) and Calipatria 18 Dec (CAM) were the only 3 found. Northern Saw-whet Owls in the coastal lowlands near Calabasas, Los Angeles 3 Dec (SH) and in the desert at Borrego Springs 19 Dec (HC) were at unexpected localities. Small flocks of Vaux's Swifts along the s. coast included 20 at Cypress Park, Los Angeles 1 Jan (RB) and 4 over San Diego 3 Dec (GLR); up to 45 wintered inland at Hart Memorial Park, Bakersfield (JCW). A Rufous Hummingbird photographed at Encino, Los Angeles 22 Nov–6 Feb (JeB) provided one of a few documented winter records. Up to 5



A few Tropical Kingbirds are present along the California coast every winter but are virtually unknown in the eastern part of the Southern California region, so this one photographed 16 December 2007 during its fifth winter season at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, Imperial County was more noteworthy. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

Allen's Hummingbirds—presumably of the resident subspecies *sedentarius*—at Chino Hills 10 Dec–9 Jan (SJM), one on a nest at Corona 13 Feb (ph. BH), and multiple birds wintering in the Oceanside/Carlsbad area (including a nest with young in Feb) and at Pt. Loma support claims that this species is expanding its range eastward into w. *San Bernardino* and *Riverside* and southward into *San Diego*. Williamson's Sapsuckers at Ventura 25 Nov–20 Jan (BSi), Glendale, *Los Angeles* 30 Jan (RB), and Sylmar, *Los Angeles* 14 Jan–4 Feb (JH) were unusual in coastal lowlands, while another at Ridgcrest 7–8 Feb (SLS) was the first in e. *Kern* during winter. Eleven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers scattered throughout the Region were fewer than reported in previous winters. Single White-headed Woodpeckers at Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 6 Dec–27 Feb (JSB) and Ventura 14 Dec (DPe) were unexpected away from the mountains.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at San Diego 12 Dec–12 Apr (CA, JP) was one of the few ever to winter in California. Following a recent trend of increasing winter reports, at least 13 Hammond's Flycatchers were found along the coast from *Los Angeles* to *San Diego*; especially noteworthy was another at Bakersfield 31 Dec–20 Jan (K&BK). In contrast, only 11 Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatchers (all presumed Pacific-slope) were found along the coast and the s. desert areas, with the northernmost interior bird at China Ranch, *Inyo* 19–20 Jan (BSc, J&KW). Seven Eastern

Phoebes wintered on the coastal slope, with other birds at Seeley 16 Dec–14 Mar (KZK, GMcC) and near Victorville, *San Bernardino* 27–29 Feb (HBK). The northwesternmost Vermilion Flycatcher was at Guadalupe, *Santa Barbara* 23 Dec–19 Feb (WTF). Fitting a well-established pattern of winter vagrancy, this year's installment of Dusky-capped Flycatchers were singles at El Segundo, *Los Angeles* 18–26 Jan (RB) and La Mirada, *Los Angeles* 27 Feb–3 Apr (JoR). Away from the se. deserts, where regular, the only Ash-throated Flycatchers were one at Nestor, *San Diego* 15 Dec (LH) and 2 at Long Beach 13 Jan (TEW). Eight Tropical Kingbirds along the coast complemented a returning bird near Seeley 11 Oct–1 Mar (KZK, GMcC). The returning Thick-billed Kingbird at Wilmington, *Los Angeles* remained through 11 Feb (JRY). Western Kingbirds continue to increase during winter. One at Santa Barbara 5 Jan (LRB) furnished the 3rd winter report for *Santa Barbara*; 5 were in coastal *Los Angeles* Dec–early Jan, and another was at San Diego 23 Dec–1 Feb (BED, JLA). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Vista, *San Diego* 22 Dec (CGE). A Northern Shrike impaled and ate a goldfinch at Big Pine, *Inyo* 29 Dec (EHG); no other Northerners were reported. Following a recent pattern, Plumbeous Vireos outnumbered Cassin's 31:8 this winter, although many of these birds (of both species) were not present after Dec.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Cliff Swallow at N.E.S.S. 5 Jan (DG) was unusual for midwinter. Cactus Wrens on the coastal slope continue to suffer from habitat loss and the impacts of too-frequent fires. Sobering news comes from w. *Riverside*, where only one individual could be found in areas where the last two local populations were known to occur (JFG). A Townsend's Solitaire at Temblor Range in far w. *Kern* 29 Dec (TME) was the first to be found in that range during winter. The degree of increase in the Western Bluebird population in coastal *Orange* is illustrated by a count of 170 on the *Orange County* (Coastal) C.B.C. 30 Dec; DRW noted that "only 20–25 years ago, this species would be a difficult species to find on this count." In *Inyo*, far more Western Bluebirds than normal were found during the season: some 70 birds, including 30 at China Ranch 19 Jan (BSc, J&KW). Red-whiskered Bulbuls have remained uncommon and local

at San Gabriel Valley, *Los Angeles*, since eradication efforts were halted in the 1970s, so 115 at *Los Angeles County Arboretum*, Arcadia 8 Jan (MSanM) suggests a recent explosion in numbers. A Sage Thrasher at Vandenberg Village 14 Dec (PK) was only the 4th to be found on the *Santa Barbara* coast during winter. The only Sprague's Pipit found was n. of Calipatria 18–20 Dec (OJ, AEK).

Tennessee Warblers, rare but regular during winter, were at *Santa Barbara* 1 Dec (HPR), Montecito 5–8 Jan (GR), and *San Diego* 13 Jan (PEL). Twenty Nashville Warblers were found during the season, the most unusual being one in the desert at Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 15 Dec (PS, KLG). A Yellow Warbler at Bishop through 3 Dec (C&RH) was very late for *Inyo*; another at Hart Park, Bakersfield 16 Dec (JCW) provided the 2nd winter report for *Kern*. A Yellow Warbler at the Alamo R. mouth, S.E.S.S. 18 Dec (OJ) that showed some rust coloration on the head was thought to be of the Mangrove Warbler group, unrecorded in California. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at El Centro, *Imperial* 12 Feb (JSF) was casual during winter. A Black-throated Green Warbler



Blackburnian Warblers normally winter in South America, so two in Southern California in winter 2007–2008 were noteworthy. This young female was photographed at Lake Hodges near Escondido, *San Diego County* 31 December and stayed into January. Photograph by David Furseth.

was at Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* 16–22 Dec (JMC). A Hermit Warbler at Hart Park, Bakersfield 16 Dec (JCW) provided only the 3rd winter report for *Kern*. A Yellow-throated Warbler wintering at Orange, *Orange* 5 Dec–2 Apr (DRW) showed characters of the subspecies *albiflora*; a slight majority of the few previous



This Yellow-throated Warbler (apparently of the subspecies *albiflora*) was found and photographed on 5 December 2007 in Orange, Orange County, California and remained through the winter. Photograph by Douglas R. Willick.

wintering birds in California have been identified as nominate *dominica*. A Grace's Warbler at Morro Bay 14 Dec–15 Feb (CA M) was the 3rd to be found in *San Luis Obispo*, another was at Rolling Hills, *Los Angeles* 26 Dec (KGL), and a female continued at Pt. Loma through 26 Feb (JiR). Among the few Blackburnian Warblers ever found in the Region during winter were singles at El Monte, *Los Angeles* 15 Dec (MAS, JDS) and L. Hodges, *San Diego* 22 Dec–12 Jan (EL, MS). A good showing of Pine Warblers included birds at Goleta 9 Nov–14 Jan (NAL), at Chula Vista 18 Nov–31 Mar (returning for 2nd winter; MS), near Vista, *San Diego* 22 Dec–29 Feb+ (JD, RHa), at Costa Mesa, *Orange* 25 Dec–7 Apr (returning for a 2nd winter; BEE), and at Riverside 26 Jan



An impressive number of Summer Tanagers was found in Southern California in winter 2007–2008; most were detected along the coast, but this young male was photographed 6 February near El Centro, Imperial County. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

(PJT). Nine Palm Warblers on the coastal slope was a bit below average numbers; more unusual was one at N.E.S.S. 5 Jan (SJM).

Twelve Black-and-white Warblers during the season included several continuing from the fall season. Nine American Redstarts were found in the coastal counties; singles at

S.E.S.S. 18 Dec (JL) and N.E.S.S. 5 Jan (SJM) were fewer than expected for the Salton Sea. The only Northern Waterthrushes reported were singles at Carlsbad, *San Diego* 22 Dec (GCH), Huntington Beach, *Orange* through 29 Dec (RiS), and Irvine 30 Dec (BED). A Common Yellowthroat at Furnace Creek Ranch 3 Jan (J&JT) was in an area where casual during winter. Painted Redstarts not included in the fall summary included birds at West Los Angeles 28 Dec–28 Feb+ (EP) and Yorba Linda, *Orange* 29 Jan–4 Feb (SS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

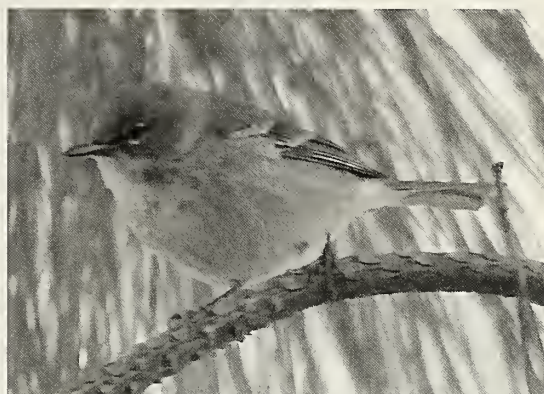
The male Hepatic Tanager that returned to Imperial Beach 30 Oct remained through 15 Mar (GMcC). Summer Tanagers, most or all of the nominate subspecies, are a regular part of our wintering avifauna; this winter, at least 41 were noted on the coastal slope, with another at Hesperia, *San Bernardino* 29 Dec (Larry LaPre, CM) and 2 near El Centro 29 Jan–16 Feb (KZK). A late Scarlet Tanager visited Santa Maria 15–16 Dec (JMC). Five Clay-colored Sparrows wintered along the coastal slope, with another ne. of Bakersfield 8 Dec+ (MMcQ, JCW). A Black-throated Sparrow at Goleta 5 Jan–19 Feb (RAH) was only the 4th to be found in *Santa Barbara* during winter. The only Lark Bunting reported was at Cuyamaca L., *San Diego* 19 Jan–9 Mar (JeS, JZi). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Niland 18 Dec (BED) provided one of surprisingly few re-

ports for the Imperial Valley. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at their regular winter haunts at Seal Beach N.W.R. 25 Oct–9 Feb (up to 2 birds; JF), Imperial Beach 23 Dec–23 Jan (BED, MS), and Mission Bay, *San Diego* 21 Jan (MM). Red Fox Sparrows of the subspecies *zaboria* were at Palos Verdes, *Los Angeles* 23 Dec (JEP), Huntington Beach 24 Dec–10 Feb (BED), and Rubidoux, *Riverside* 16 Dec (JFG). A Swamp Sparrow at San Clemente I. 30 Nov–19 Feb constituted a first island report (JEB). An *oriantha* White-crowned Sparrow was near Lancaster 15 Dec (KLG); another

dark-colored bird, presumably also *oriantha*, was at Goleta 5–23 Feb (KB). Harris's Sparrows were at Inyokern, *Kern* 27 Nov–30 Dec (TM), San Jacinto 14 Dec (DW), and Furnace Creek Ranch 16–18 Feb (JZa). Last winter's poor showing of longspurs was outdone by their near absence this season; the only reports

were one Chestnut-collared n. of *Calipatria* 18 Dec (OJ), 32 others near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara* 24 Jan–26 Feb (WTF), and a Lapland at Seal Beach, *Orange* 29 Dec (RS).

Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found along the coast, including one salvaged at San Diego 15 Dec (MF; *SDNHM). Four Black-headed Grosbeaks, 3 in *Orange*, were found during the season. An imm. male Rusty Blackbird at Furnace Creek Ranch 22 Dec–2 Feb (CMcC) was the first of this rapidly declining species to be found in the Region since Dec 2004. Orchard Orioles were at Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo* 15 Dec–27 Feb (CAM), Imperial Beach 23 Dec (BED), and Oceanside 9 Jan–20 Feb (SB, DPo). Several Hooded Orioles were found along the coast, as expected; more unusual was one at Bakersfield 6 Jan–28 Feb (KHL). Eight Baltimore Orioles were



Small numbers of Pine Warblers are now found in Southern California every winter, with four present in winter 2007–2008, including this male photographed on 1 January in Goleta, Santa Barbara County. Photograph by Hugh P. Ranson.

present along the coast in Dec and Jan.

Casual in the ne. deserts, a Purple Finch was a highlight at Furnace Creek Ranch 8 Feb (V&GW). Cassin's Finches staged an invasion into the lowlands beginning in Jan. On the n. coast, finches were at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 15 Jan (BKS), at Santa Barbara 5 Jan (4; HPR) and 5 Feb (JD), and at Ojai, *Ventura* 18 Feb (DRo, BDo); in addition, "large numbers" wintered in the w. San Rafael Mts., *Santa Barbara* (WTF). A minor incursion of Cassin's was noted in coastal *Los Angeles* 9 Jan–5 Mar. These finches were considered "irruptive" this winter in *Inyo*, but more striking was the irruption into the desert of ne. *Kern*; here, small numbers began to appear around Inyokern and Ridgecrest 13 Jan, and after winter storms in mid-Jan, flocks of up to 65 were found, with the latest flocks 26 Feb (SLS). Red Crossbills were also relatively widespread, with up to 25 at Figueroa Mt., *Santa Barbara* 2–5 Dec (JL), up to 17 on Ranger Peak, *Santa Barbara* 25 Dec–3 Jan (MAH), up to 6 in the Hemet, *Riverside* area

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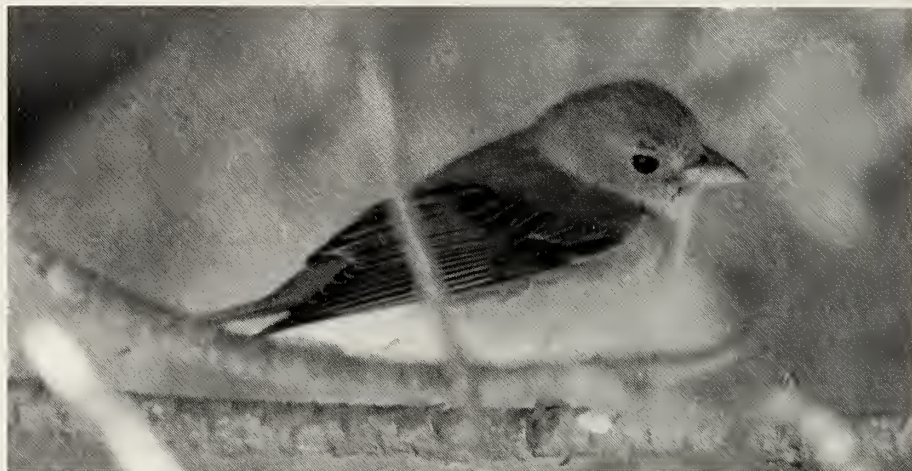
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**AMERICAN BIRD
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This female Scarlet Tanager photographed in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, California on the second day of its 15-16 December 2007 stay was undoubtedly a late fall vagrant. Photograph by Jamie M. Chavez.

24 Jan–25 Feb (JG), and up to 30 at Ocean-side 26 Jan–19 Mar (MJB, SB). Three Nutmeg Mannikins at Palm Desert, Riverside 12 Jan (KL) indicate that this species may be spreading to well-watered desert areas.

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

Urban s. California certainly gets more than its share of odd escapees, but two found during the season deserve specific mention: a Galapagos Mockingbird (*Mimus parvulus*) at Long Beach 8 Dec (KGL); and a Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*) at San Marino, Los Angeles 21 Dec (SKL).

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Alice Abela, Christopher Adler, Eitan Altman, Jon L. Atwood, Liga L. Auzins, Richard Barth, Matt Bateman (MBat), Madeline Bauer (MBau), Louis R. Bevier, Jeffrey S. Boyd, Steve Brad, James E. Bradley, Jean Brandt (JeB), Kyle Braunger, Lucas Brug, Jamie M. Chavez, Hal Cohen, David M. Compton (Santa Barbara), Brian E. Daniels, Jared Dawson (JDa), Patrick Del Pizzo, Bill Deppe, Jay Desgrossellier, Henry Detwiler, Becky Donahue (BDo), Bettina E. Eastman, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo), Claude G. Edwards, Meryl Faulkner, Jon S. Feenstra, John Fitch, Sam D. Fitton, Nick & Mary Freeman (N&MF), Wes T. Fritz, Eliot H. Gann, Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles), Jim George, Steve Glover, Dave Goodward, John F. Green (Riverside), Robb A. Hamilton, John Hammond, Steve Hampton, Jim Hardesty, Lori Hargrove, Marlin D. Harms, Robert Harrington (RHa), Christine Harvey, Gjon C. Hazard, Tom & Jo Heindel (Inyo), Roger Higson, Mark A. Holmgren, Bill Hopson, Chris & Rosie Howard (C&RH), Terry Hunefeld, Oscar Johnson (Ventura), Trina L. Jones, Paul Keller, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce

(San Bernardino), Barbara Krause, David J. Krueper, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken & Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Erik LaCoste, Susan K. Lafferty, Larry LaPre, Kevin G. Larson, Paul E. Lehman, Nick A. Lethaby, Kurt Leuschner, Kelli Heindel Levinson, Jim Lomax, Curtis A. Marantz, Marcie Mason, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Chris McCreedy, Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Robert McKernan, Robert McMorran, Michael McQuerrey, Gary Meredith, Terri Middlemiss, Kathy C. Molina, Stanley Moore, Stephen J. Myers, Doug Nail, Robert T. Patton, Jim Pea, Eleanor Pelcyger, David Pereksa (DPe), James E. Pike, David Povey (DPo), Hugh P. Ranson, Jim Roberts (JiR), Geoffrey L. Rogers, David Roine (DRo), George Roland, Paul Rosso, Jonathan Rowley (JoR), Don Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga (JRy), Matt Sadowski, Elaine Salico, Mike San Miguel, Larry Sansone, Robert Schallmann, Rick Shearer (RiS), Mark A. Scheel, Janet D. Scheel, Brad K. Schram, Barbara Schuck (BSc), Stan Shields, Brad Sillasen (BSi), Maggie L. Smith, Justyn Stahl (San Clemente Island), Susan L. Steele, Mark Stevenson, Jeremiah Stock (JeS), John Stock, Pamela Stones, Mary Beth Stowe, Brian E. Sullivan, John & Jackie Taylor, Patrick J. Temple, Steve & Becky Turley (S&BT), David Vander Pluym, Stanley Walens, Rob Whipple, Dan Williams, Douglas R. Willick (Orange), James & Kay Wilson (J&KW), John C. Wilson (Kern), Vicki & Gerry Wolfe (V&GW), Thomas E. Wurster, Jerry Zatorski (JZa), Jim Zimmer (JZi). ☺

Guy McCaskie, 954 Grove Avenue
Imperial Beach, California 91932
(guymcc@pacbell.net)

Kimball L. Garrett
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007
(kgarrett@nhm.org)



Richard A. Erickson
Mark J. Billings
Roberto Carmona
Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos

The season's highlights in Baja California were its first confirmed Neotropical Cormorant, a Harlan's Hawk, and an eastern Bell's Vireo. Baja California Sur had more to offer, with Common Black-Hawk, Long-tailed Jaeger, White-eyed Vireo, Red-throated Pipit, Tropical Parula, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and the Region's first winter Painted Bunting. There was a less than modest showing in Baja California of such species as American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, and winter finches.

GEESSE THROUGH ALCIDS

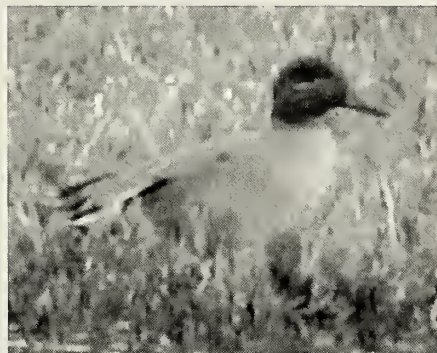
Sedentary park geese remaining in Tijuana included a Greater White-fronted 4 Jan–1 Mar (JSh, KAS, MJB) and a Ross's 15 Sep (ph. MJB). Elsewhere, 6 Greater White-fronted Geese were at two locations in the California District, one was at Guerrero Negro 19 Nov (ph. KLG et al.), and one was far s. at Lagunas de Chametla 9 Dec–17 Jan (VA, ph. SGM et al.). Two imm. Snow Geese were in the La Paz area 16 Dec–18 Jan (*fide* EP, ph. SGM). Cackling Geese included 5 at two locations in nw. Baja California and 13 at three locations in s. Baja California Sur (ph. DSC, ph. TH, ph. SGM et al.), including one lingering since the previous winter. All identified to subspecies were *leucopareia*, now considered the default Cackler in the Region. The subspecies *moffitti* probably accounted for almost all of nearly 70 Canada Geese at four locations in n. Baja California, but 2 apparent *parvipes* were in the Río Colorado delta 16 Dec (MJB, RAE, PP).

Wood Ducks persisted at the Mexicali Zoo, the Region's only consistent spot for the



El Centenario, Baja California Sur was host to these immature Snow Geese and a long-staying adult Aleutian Cackling Goose (here 16 January 2008). Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

species; 2 males were there 28 Dec (MDC, ph. RH et al.). Two Eurasian Wigeons were in the California District, and a male Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid was also there, at Lagunita El Ciprés 6–19 Feb (MJB et al.). Another hybrid, the apparent Northern Shoveler x Gadwall, was seen again at El Centenario 16–17 Jan (ph. SGM). Less clear-cut was a male teal at the Río Guadalupe estuary 3 Jan (MDC, ph. RH et al.), a bird that showed some of the features of Eurasian Teal. An unequivocal record of this taxon remains to be established in the Region. Greater Scaup were found in the nw. (22), the ne. (one), and in Baja California Sur: females at Guerrero Negro 26 Nov (JSF) and El Centenario 16–18 Jan (†SGM). Record Regional counts were of an amazing 32 Black Scoters at Pta. San Jacinto 1 Jan and 200 Common Goldeneyes near



This Green-winged Teal at Río Guadalupe estuary, Baja California on 3 January 2008 shows characters of both American and Eurasian taxa. Photograph by Ron Huffman.

Algodones 28 Dec–6 Jan (both MDC et al.). Eleven Hooded Mergansers in Baja California included one at a new locality: Rancho (Mel-ing) San José 2 Jan (HO et al.).

A Least Storm-Petrel off Bahía Magdalena 27 Feb (MO) was apparently at the n. limit of the species' winter range (Wilbur, *Birds of*

Baja California, 1987). A subad. Masked Booby at Middle Rock, Is. Los Coronados, 4 Dec–10 Feb (WTH, ph. TAB, ph. MS et al.) was exceptional in the far n.; 3 or 4 were seen in the Cape District. One Red-footed Booby was seen, a subad. brown morph at Boca de Soledad (Bahía Magdalena) 28 Feb (MO). The Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds in the Mexicali Valley have produced high counts for many waterbird species. An estimate of 600 American White Pelicans there 15 Dec (MJB, RAE, PP) was almost twice as high as any other we are aware of for Baja California, but 800 in Baja California Sur were noted in last fall's report. An ad. Neotropical Cormorant at Mexicali 15 Dec (PP, ph. MJB, RAE) was the first to be confirmed in Baja California but was expected given the species' casual status in the California portion of the Salton Sink.

Least Bittern was apparently once more common in the Cape District, but we receive very few reports from there now. One at Santiago 15 Jan was Mlodinow's first for the area. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Estero Punta Banda 14 Dec (†EP, EM) was the first for the Ensenada C.B.C.; the species is surprisingly rare between San Diego and Bahía de San Quintín. Roosting White-faced Ibis are a consistent winter spectacle at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds, where an estimated 25,000 gathered on 15 Dec (MJB, RAE, PP). Careful censusing and monitoring of roosting species there remains to be done.

Ad. Bald Eagles at Campo Mosqueda 20 Feb (ACF) and Laguna Hanson 26 Feb (*fide* GD LG) were the only ones reported in Baja California, but at least 3 were seen at Bahía Magdalena 23 Jan–19 Mar (RB, MO, ph. CJN). A Northern Harrier at l. Santa Catalina 24 Feb (MO) may be the first reported from that Gulf island. Less than a year after the Region's first well-documented Common Black-



The first to be confirmed in the state of Baja California, this adult Neotropic Cormorant (on right; here with Double-crested Cormorant) was photographed at Mexicali on 15 December 2007. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

Hawk was found at Miraflores, one was seen at nearby Agua Caliente 6 Jan (†MR). Is it possible that last March's imm. molted into this year's "adult"? The only Swainson's Hawks reported were individuals s. of Ciudad Constitución 27 Nov (JSF) and "half way between Caduaño and Santa Anita" 16 Jan (SGM), but the species' favored agricultural areas were apparently not covered well. A Harlan's Hawk near Algodones 30 Dec (KAR, CR) represented the Region's 4th record. Golden Eagle was poorly known when Rodríguez-Estrella et al. summarized its status in the Region in 1991 (*Journal of Raptor Research* 25: 68-71), and little has changed since. One at Mesa 2 de Abril, about 10 km nw. of Santa Rosalia, on 5 Dec (VA) and an imm. at Laguna Chapala in the Vizcaino Desert 22 Oct 2001 (KLG) are the only ones away from the nw. mountain and California districts reported to us—but note also the Nov 1998 observations of an imm. at I. Espíritu Santo reported by Carmona et al. (*Western Birds* 33: 245).

Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Estero Punta Banda 30 Dec (MDC, ph. RH et al.). High plover counts included 1113 Semipalmateds on the La Paz C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* EP) and about 100 Mountains at their last Regional stronghold on Mesa San Jacinto 1 Jan (MDC et al.). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Estero Punta Banda on 14 Dec (†PP et al.) was the long-anticipated first for the Ensenada C.B.C. The least expected shorebirds of the season were in Baja California Sur: a Silt Sandpiper at Loreto 3 Dec (JSF, RF) and a male Ruff wintering for its 2nd year in the La Paz area 19-20 Mar (ph. SGM, ph. PM). The only Wilson's Phalarope reported was mostly in basic plumage at Lagunas de Chametla 19 Mar (SGM).

Franklin's Gulls were at Estero el Coyote 22 Feb (RC, LM, RV) and Lagunas de Chametla 4 Mar (RHo). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was near Is. Los Coronados 9 Feb (MJB et al.). Gull-billed Terns wintered in the La Paz area for the 6th consecutive

year, with up to 5 present 16 Dec–20 Mar (*fide* EP, ph. SGM), but the species was unrecorded in Baja California for the first winter in four years. Five Common Terns were also recorded in the Cape District. More unexpected were winter Elegant Terns. Two were at Loreto 3 Dec (JSF, RF), up to 8 were in the La Paz area 16 Dec–17 Jan (*fide* EP, SGM), one was at Estero San José, San José del Cabo 11 Jan (SGM), and 2 were far n. at Estero Punta Banda 14 Dec (†PP, †EP, EM). Capping off the rare larids was a Long-tailed Jaeger s. of I. Carmen 24 Feb (MO), remarkably placing the species in the Region for the 3rd consecutive winter. Alcids high counts were 70 Craver's Murrelets off I. Santa Margarita 27 Feb (MO) and 1500 Cassin's Auklets near Is. Los Coronados 9 Feb (MJB et al.).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

In winter, White-winged Dove is "rare but increasing" in the Salton Sink (Patten et al., *Birds of the Salton Sea*, 2003) and "has peaked and declined" in coastal San Diego (Unitt, *San Diego County Bird Atlas*, 2004); seven were in the ne. 30 Dec–24 Feb (KAR, CR, AM), and 6 were on the Maneadero Plain 14 Dec (*fide* MJB, EM). They have been found on every Ensenada C.B.C. since the arrival of Eurasian Collared-Doves, with which they often associate. Up to 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves were at Bahía de Los Angeles 15 Jan–mid-Feb (GF, MF). Although the species is undoubtedly overlooked, a Long-eared Owl s. of Ciudad Morelos in the Mexicali Valley 28 Dec (MM et al.) provided the 2nd record for that subregion. Single Short-eared Owls near Ensenada 2 Nov and 14 Dec (EDZ-H, †MJB, PP et al.) were expected, but at least 5 around Guerrero Negro 29 Nov–21 Feb (VA et al.) were southerly.

Vaux's Swift was recorded at Estero San José, San José del Cabo for the 3rd consecutive winter: one 17 Mar (SGM). Fancy hummingbirds this season were all in the Cape District: a female Broad-billed at Estero San José 14 Jan (†SGM), an *Archilocus* sp. at Mi-

raflores 13 Jan (SGM), and a Black-chinned at Estero San José 1-17 Mar (RHo, SGM). Three or 4 Tropical Kingbirds were detected in the Cape District 19 Dec–26 Feb (HBK, ph. SGM, MO), and a Western Kingbird was on the road to San Antonio de la Sierra 3 Mar (RHo). A singing White-eyed Vireo at San Antonio de la Sierra 3 Mar (RHo, ph. DH-R, ph. KK) was remarkable, as the species remains unrecorded in winter in California. Following last winter's Regional first eastern Bell's Vireo on the Maneadero Plain, a different individual was there 14-15 Dec (PAG, ph. WF et al.). This calling imm was more cooperative, better documented, and much brighter than last year's bird. Wayward "Solitary" Vireos were represented this season by a Plumbeous at Cataviña 26 Nov (JSF), another at the Mexicali Country Club 1 Dec (KAR, DJP), and a Cassin's on the Maneadero Plain 14-15 Dec (PAG, ph. WF).

A 16 Jan Horned Lark at El Centenario (ph. SGM) was as far s. as previously recorded. Single Golden-crowned Kinglets at the Mexicali Zoo 1 Dec (KAR, DJP), El Sauzal 13 Dec (ph. MS et al.), and Ensenada 14 Dec (†RAE) were the first Regional reports in five years. In contrast, Red-throated Pipit was found in the Cape District for the 4th consecutive winter: at El Centenario 16-17 Jan (SGM). This winter's warbler show was a bit slower than usual. Two Tennessees, 2 Nashvilles, 3 Yellows, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, Palm, Black-



This immature Bald Eagle at Hull Canal, Bahía Magdalena, Baja California Sur on 19 March 2008 was presumably part of a resident population there. Photograph by Carlos J. Navarro.

and-white, and 2 Wilson's were tallied during the 14 Dec Ensenada C.B.C. (*fide* MJB, EM), and a Lucy's was in the same area (Maneadero Plain) on 30 Dec (MDC et al.). An American Redstart at the Mexicali Country Club 1 Dec filled expectations for the Salton Sink, but a Hooded Warbler at the Mexicali Zoo the same day was the sink's first (both KAR, DJP). The



This singing White-eyed Vireo at San Antonio de la Sierra, Baja California Sur 3 March 2008 furnished the second state record and was the first to be photographically documented. Photograph by Dylan Holstein-Radin.

Cape District produced single Tennessees at Miraflores 12 Jan and El Rosario 18 Mar (both SGM), an 18 Mar Nashville at Santiago (SGM), a 15 Jan Virginia's at Las Cuevas (†SGM), at least 5 Lucy's at Miraflores 1 Dec–13 Jan (JSF, RF, ph. †SGM), the continuing ad. female Tropical Parula at Todos Santos 21 Mar (SGM), a 15 Mar Magnolia at Caduano (SGM), a 1 Dec Cape May at Santiago (†JSF, RF), at least 4 Palms, and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Miraflores 12–13 Jan (SGM).

Five, 2, and one Summer Tanager were in the nw., ne., and s. portions of the Region, respectively; 5 Westerns were in the nw. portion. Five Spotted Towhees near Algodones 30 Dec (KAR, CR) was a healthy count for the Colorado Desert subregion. Grasshopper Sparrows are seldom encountered in winter; singles were at Santiago 15 Jan (SGM) and Miraflores 1 Mar (RHo). Rare Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Rancho El Descanso 7 Oct

(RAE, MSM), the Mexicali Zoo 1 Dec (KAR, DJP), and the Mexicali Country Club 15 Dec (ph. MJB, RAE, PP). But the rarest was an imm. at Miraflores 16 Mar (SGM). An impressive group of juncos at the Mexicali Zoo 1 Dec included 5 Slate-colored, at least 5 Oregons, 3 Pink-sideds, and 2 Gray-headed (KAR, DJP). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was just n. of Real del Mar 3 Jan (MDC et al.), and a green Painted Bunting was at Miraflores 12 Jan (†SGM). Assuming the latter was a wild bird, it established the first Regional winter record.

At least 8 Western Meadowlarks 16 Jan–19 Mar were singing, chasing, and giving aerial displays on the alfalfa fields at El Centenario, hinting at the possibility of nesting (SGM). At the nearby Lagunas de Chametla, 5 Bronzed Cowbirds 19–20 Mar (SGM) join a small number of previous records from the Cape District. Wintering orioles included single Orchards at Estero San José, San José del Cabo 26 Feb

(MO) and Miraflores 16 Mar (SGM), and a Bullock's near Tecate 3 Nov–26 Jan (JS). Purple Finches have proven surprisingly scarce in the Region; 2 were at Las Animas 10 Oct (RAE, ph. MJB, MSM), at least 2 were near Tecate 6 Nov–3 Mar (ph. JS), and one was in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir foothills at Los Manzanos 2 Jan (MDC et al.). Cassin's Finches, on the other hand, are regular on the n. mountains, but singles 26 Oct and 16 Nov at Bahía de Los Angeles (ph. GF, MF) were lost. Pine Siskins put on a good show in the fall, but that didn't last through the winter; 25 was the highest count (El Rosario 29 Oct, †MJB, RAE, MS), and Bahía de Los Angeles hosted the southernmost (at least 9 between 10 Oct and 3 Dec; ph. GF, MF).

Contributors: Douglas W. Aguillard, Nallely Arce, Victor Ayala, Mark J. Billings, Thomas A. Blackman, Robert Buchsbaum, José Juan Butrón, Alejandra Calvo Fonseca, Michael D. Carmody, Roberto Carmona, Daniel S. Cooper, Gonzalo De León Girón, Richard A. Erickson, Jonathan S. Feenstra, George Flicker, Mary Flicker, Robert Fogg, Wes Fritz, Peter A. Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett, Andrés González, Tom Haglund, Dylan Holstein-Radin, Rich Hoyer (RHo), Ron Huffman, W. Terry Hunefeld, Marshall J. Iliff (eBird), Keith Kamper, Howard B. King, Rita López, Guadalupe Márton, Daniel Martínez, Israel Martínez Cedillo, Ricardo Mata, Amy McAndrews, Terry McEneaney, Eric Mellink, Luis Mendoza, Steven G. Mlodinow, Fabiola Molina, Pete Morris, Mike Mulligan, Carlos J. Navarro, Michael O'Brien, Hal Opperman, Eduardo Palacios, David W. Povey, David J. Powell, Peter Pyle, Cindy Rademaker, Kurt A. Rademaker, Marcus Roening, Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Matt Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, John Shrader (JSh), Karen A. Shrader, Lea D. Squires, Joe Sweeney, Rosalba Vázquez, Enrique D. Zamora-Hernández.

Richard A. Erickson, LSA Associates

20 Executive Park, Suite 200, Irvine, California 92614
(richard.erickson@lsa-assoc.com)

Mark J. Billings, 3802 Rosecrans Street, PMB #334

San Diego, California 92110, (markjbillings@yahoo.com)

Roberto Carmona, Departamento de Biología Marina
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur
Apartado Postal 19-B, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México
(beauty@uabcs.mx)

Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Apartado Postal 233

Ensenada, Baja California, 22800, México

U. S. mailing address:

PMB 064, P.O. Box 189003

Coronado, California 92178-9003

(gruiz@uabc.mx)

SA Birders visiting La Paz—along with regular readers of these reports—are well aware of Lagunas de Chametla. These wastewater treatment ponds and adjacent flooded fields form the core of one of Baja California Sur's most important freshwater systems, and one of the premiere birding destinations in the Region. Thousands of waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds frequent the ponds, providing research opportunities for numerous students from the nearby Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur. The 83 waterbird and 88 native landbird species recorded there represent 41% of all species found in the state and include 15 protected by the Mexican government. Vagrants from around the globe have appeared, including Ross's Goose, Great Frigatebird, Curlew-Sandpiper, and Chimney Swift. Nesting species include the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Least Grebe, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and Tropical Kingbird. The first and last of these have not been found nesting anywhere else in the Region. The endangered Belding's Yellowthroat has been recorded repeatedly and may yet be found nesting as well.

Over the past several years, threats to the ponds have surfaced, most notably involving a possible golf course development. But recently, Carmona began meeting with state authorities who suggested that some official protection for the area may be possible. Godspeed to the participants in this important conservation effort.

NORTHERN MEXICO



Héctor Gómez de Silva

According to William Howe, northwestern Chihuahua had very high numbers of small-mammal specialists, such as Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Barn Owls, but he detected only modest numbers of grassland granivorous species there this season.

LOONS THROUGH OWLS

Two blue-morph Ross's Geese were at Laguna Fierro, Chih. 1 & 11 Jan (DJK, RH et al.), and a female Red-breasted Merganser was there 1 Jan (CMR, DJK, JMR). Two Snowy Egrets, unexpected during winter, were at Laguna Fierro 1 Jan (DJK et al.). An ad Common Black-Hawk was at the Casas Grandes, Chih. irrigation pond 5 Jan (WH, DM, JSD, SJ), and a Rough-legged Hawk was in the Animas Valley, Son. 65 km e. of Agua Prieta 10 Jan (RH, SM). Red-shouldered Hawks wintered commonly in the Torreón, Coah. area, with reports at Cañon de Fernandez S.P. on the Nazas R. 16 Dec and 10 Feb and downriver at La Isla 9 Dec and 24 Feb (WB, MRL, FVP). Another Black Hawk-Eagle was observed at La Bajada, Nay. 16 Feb (MS), one of few local reports. A Dunlin was among Least Sandpipers at Laguna Fierro 11 Jan (RH, SM). An albino Laughing Gull was photographed at La Pesca, Tamps. 27 Dec (HGT). In Chihuahua, a total of 508 Eurasian Collared-Doves was counted on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan (WH et al.), 30 others were at Casas Grandes, plus one nearby 5 Jan (WH), and another single was near Vicam, Son., 15 km n. of Ciudad Obregón 19 Dec (MS). A male Ruddy Ground-Dove was at a private ranch at km 23 n. of Janos, Chih. 10 Jan (ph. RH, SM). Two Groove-billed Anis at El Tular near San Carlos, Son. 31 Dec (BW) seemed n. of their typical range. Twenty-four White-throated Swifts at Estero Soldado, Son. 30 Dec (BW) seemed unusual.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

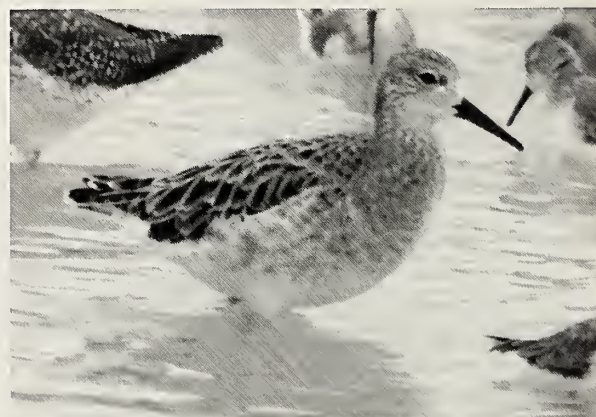
At Torreón, male Anna's Hummingbirds displayed in suburban gardens, establishing and defending feeding territories late Dec-Jan (WB, FVP). A first-year male Anna's Hummingbird near Estero Soldado 28-30 Dec seemed s. of its usual range, and a male Elegant Trogon at Nacapule Canyon, Son. 1 Jan was also in an unusual location (both BW). An Eastern Phoebe was at La Presa riparian area near Casa de Janos, Chih. 1-4 Jan for the 3rd winter in a row (WH, m.ob.), while another was in upper Nacapule Canyon 3 Jan (BW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Cañon de Fernandez S.P. 10 Feb (MRL, WB, FVP) was quite early. A Greater Pewee at Nacapule Canyon 1 Jan (BW) was unexpected. A Great Kiskadee was heard at Estero Soldado 28-29 Dec (BW). A Western Kingbird s. of Nacapule Canyon 1 & 4 Jan (BW) was n. of its typical wintering range. Green Jays were seen at Cañon de Fernandez S.P. 16 Dec for the 4th consecutive year (WB, MRL, FVP), and a White-eyed Vireo there 16 Dec established the first record for the park (WB, MRL). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen at Ojo Frio, Chih. 4 Jan (DM, WH); Howell and Webb (1995) show no reports, but Bent (1949: 395, *Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and their Allies*) mentions its wintering in nw. Chihuahua. A Nashville Warbler at Nacapule Canyon 1 & 4 Jan (BW)

was northerly. A Painted Redstart was at Nacapule Canyon late Dec-early Jan (TB, BW). A Swainson's Warbler was mist-netted at Los Cedros Biological Station near Gómez Farias, Tamps. 17 Jan (RBA).

Two Summer Tanagers, a female and young male, at Instituto Tecnológico de La Laguna, Torreón 13 Jan-18 Feb (MRL, FVP) established the earliest report for Coahuila by 10 weeks. Single Clay-colored Sparrows in nw. Chihuahua were at Laguna Fierro 1 Jan (DJK, JMR), La Presa riparian area 2 Jan (WH, CMR), and near Casa de Janos 3 Jan (*fide* WH). Two *zaboria*-type Fox Sparrows were along the Rio San Pedro at Casa de Janos 2 Jan (RH, DJK, JMR), with one lingering through 11 Jan (ph. RH); a *schistacea*-type was photographed at La Presa riparian area 4 Jan (ph. MW); and one somewhat intermediate between *zaboria* and *schistacea* was there 2 Jan (WH, ph. SJ, JSD, CB, CMR, NBA, JRRS). White-throated Sparrow reports included



This Snow Goose, representing only the third record for Yucatán state, stayed in the Celestún wetlands at least from 23 December 2007 through 17 (here 14) January 2008. Photograph by Henry Dzib.



This female Ruff marks one of a few Mexican records of this species. It was photographed 18 December 2007 in Las Coloradas, Yucatán. Photograph by Jorge Montejo.

singles at Laguna Fierro 1 Jan (DJK, JMR, CMR) and Casa de Janos 3 Jan (RH, DJK), plus 3 at La Presa riparian area 1-2 Jan (DJK, JMR, CMR, WH). Ad. Golden-crowned Sparrows were at La Presa riparian area 1 Jan (DJK) and near Casa de Janos 2-3 Jan (RH, ph. DJK, JMR). Two Pink-



This photograph of a Pileated Flycatcher from Barranca el Choncho 20 January 2008 provides good documentation of this species for the state of Jalisco, where there are occasional unsubstantiated reports. Photograph by Chris Benesh.

sided Juncos were at upper Nacapule Canyon 3 Jan (BW). Out of season were a female-plumaged Blue Grosbeak at La Presa riparian area 4 Jan (WW, ph. MW) and another at Cañón de Fernandez S.P. 16 Dec (MRL, WB, FVP). An ad. male Scott's Oriole foraged in a sycamore along the Río Piedras Verdes, nw. Chih. 5 Jan (JSD, SJ, DM, WH). Duos of Lawrence's Goldfinches were found along the Río Casas Grandes/Janos 31 Dec (DJK, JMR) and s. of Casa de Janos 2 Jan (RH).

Contributors cited (area compilers in bold-face): Nélida Barajas Acosta, Carol Beardmore, William Beaty, Rafael Brito-Aguilar, Terry Brownell, J. Scott Dieni, Héctor Garza Torres, William Howe, Rich Hoyer, Stephanie Jones, David J. Krueper, María del Refugio Loya Loya, David Mehlman, Stauffer Miller, José Roberto Rodríguez-Salazar, Christopher M. Rustay, Janet M. Ruth, Mark Stackhouse, Francisco Valdés Peresgasga, Brad Waggoner, William West, Mark Watson.

CENTRAL MEXICO



Three Swainson's Hawks within a group of several hundred migrating Turkey Vultures at Parque El Haya, Ver. 28 Feb (AM, JM) were a bit early. Two Harris's Hawks were at Centro Medico, D.F. 29 Jan (HGdS, MPV). A flock of 10 Yellow-headed Parrots was at Colonia Francisco Barrios, Ver. 23 Feb (HGdS, PP). Two Western Screech-Owls were heard at Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México, D.F. (hereafter, Parque Ecológico) 19 Dec and 23 Jan (HGdS, MPV), and a Flammulated Owl

Feb (HGdS, PP). A female Lazuli Bunting was at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 20 Feb (HGdS).

Contributors cited (area compilers in bold-face): Chris Benesh, Bert Frenz, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Manuel Grosselet, Leonel Herrera Alsina, Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejó, Mónica Pérez Villafaña, Paul Prior, Saúl Saldaña, Ricardo Soto.

SOUTHERN MEXICO



mist-netted there 23 Jan (HGdS, MPV, m.ob.) provided a very rare report for the subregion. Also mist-netted at Parque Ecológico were a male Bumblebee Hummingbird and a Greenish Elaenia, both 14 Feb (SS, RS, MPV, HGdS). A Pileated Flycatcher was audio-recorded and photographed at Barranca el Choncho, Jal. 20 Jan (CB).

At least three pairs of Black-crowned Tityras were at El Tajín, Ver. 17 Jan (BF et al.). Perhaps the same Philadelphia Vireo was found at Parque El Haya 18, 23, & 27 Jan (AM, ph. JM). A Black Robin was heard at Puerto del Aire, Ver. 23 Feb (HGdS). A Brewster's Warbler was found at El Tajín 17 Jan (BF et al.). Single Colima Warblers were mist-netted at Parque Ecológico 19 Dec and 15 Feb (SS, RS, MPV, HGdS), and another was seen near Zitácuaro, Mich. 19 Feb (HGdS). A Bananaquit at El Basurero at the edge of Xalapa 12 Dec (LHA, AM, JM) was n. of its normal range and well above its typical elevation. An Olive-backed Towhee with some features indicating hybridization with Collared Towhee was mist-netted at Parque Ecológico 24 Jan (SS, RS, HGdS, MPV). A Clay-colored Sparrow was found at Colonia Francisco Barrios, and 2 Vesper Sparrows were near there 23

Six Ring-necked Ducks (5 females and one male) were at Presa Piedra Azul, Oax. 24 Dec (HGdS). A Merlin was at San Andrés Huayapam Dam 23 Dec (HGdS). A Double-striped Thick-knee was at La Venta, Oax. 13 Jan (MG). A White-eyed Vireo was at the Santo Domingo Botanical Garden, Oax. 30 Dec (MG). A Happy Wren was heard on the lower



This adult Golden-crowned Sparrow was one of two found in northwestern Chihuahua this winter. It was found along the Río San Pedro near Casa de Janos 2 (here 3) January 2008 by Rich Hoyer. Photograph by Dave Krueper.

slopes of Hwy. 175 near El Estudiante, Oax. 28 Dec (HGdS). A Yellow-faced Grassquit was mist-netted at San Augustin Etla 28 Dec (MG). Three Vesper Sparrows were near San Antonio Arrazola, Oax. 22 Dec (HGdS). A Streak-backed Oriole near Presa Piedra Azul 24 Dec (HGdS) furnished a rare report for the central valley of Oaxaca. Around Monte Albán, Oax. 21 Dec were a Pileated Flycatcher, a Golden Vireo, and 2 Lazuli Buntings (HGdS).

Contributors cited: Héctor Gómez de Silva, Manuel Grosselet.

YUCATÁN PENINSULA



WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A Snow Goose photographed at Tambor, Celestún 23 Dec–17 Jan (MA, EC, HD, GO, RP) established the 3rd record for the Region. Two Redheads, rare for the subregion, were near Uxmal 1 Dec (EG). Three female-plumaged Common Mergansers were photographed at Rio Lagartos estuary 1 Dec (SC, BM, MM, ER, AR, MT). Observations of Red-breasted Mergansers in the subregion are on the increase, with a female photographed at Playa Norte, Isla del Carmen 10 Dec (AO, PR, RB) that furnished the first for Laguna de Términos Reserve. Now difficult to find, an Ocellated Turkey near Sudzal 2 Dec (AM, WS) was notable. A Singing Quail was heard between Samahil and Tetziz 21 Feb (DB).

A White-tailed Tropicbird in waters off Ria Lagartos 9 Feb (DN) provided the first report for the Biosphere Reserve, while a Masked Booby photographed at Las Coloradas 4 Feb (DN) furnished the 2nd report for the Re-

serve. A Least Bittern was at Peten Tucha 1 Dec (DN). An Agami Heron at Calakmul 18 Jan (RB, SB, LC, MC, BD, LD, DS) furnished the 2nd report for that site, while another was along the Palizada road, Tabasco 22 Dec (BSL). A Glossy Ibis was behind El Cuyo, near Sacbó 1 Dec (EC, SF, LK, RM, GM, AM, UO). Three reports of Jabirus were received: one photographed near Morocoy 8 Jan, an area where the species had not been seen for several years (LT); the pair that successfully fledged 3 young two years ago at Peten Tucha, Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve were observed copulating in their nest 1 Dec (EC, SF, LK, RM, GM, AM, UO); and 2 others were among thousands of egrets alongside Hwy. 186 approximately 40 km e. of Escárcega 18 Jan (RB, SB, LC, MC, BD, LD, DS).

Two King Vultures were seen at Río Bec 15 Jan (DB) and another the next day at Calakmul (DB). A White-tailed Kite at Sacbó, behind El Cuyo 1 Dec (EC, SF, LK, RM, GM, AM, UO)

had been seen there previously, while another at Xcambo, behind Telchac Puerto 2 Dec (EG) established a first for that site. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk photographed near Ucum, about 32 km w. of Chetumal 15 Dec (DD, DF, AM, EM, DS, LT, RT, CW) furnished the 2nd report for the Region and was in the same general location as the first report. A single Northern Harrier flew over mangroves at Chiquila waterhole at Rio Lagartos 1 Dec (DN). A Great Black-Hawk was reported eating bats at the bat cave 2 km e. of Calakmul 16 Jan (DB). An Ornate Hawk-Eagle was observed at Guayacal, 20 km w. of Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo 19 Dec (MH, LK).

A Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was reported for the first time at the entrance to Xcambo near Progreso 1 Dec (WS). Rare in the subregion, an American Golden-Plover was among several Black-bellied Plovers behind Progreso 1 Dec (WS, AS). An unusually large flock of 27 Killdeer was at Grupo Maya, Quintana Roo 21 Dec (MH). Shorebirds at Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve 1 Dec included a Red Knot, 6 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Dunlin, and a Stilt Sandpiper (DN, SC, BM, MM, ER, AR, MT, EC, SF, LK, RM, GM, AM, UO), while a female Ruff photographed there 18 Dec (SC, BM, AM, ph. JM, ER, AR, LS, MT) furnished the 4th report in the Region. Five other Stilt Sandpipers were in the coastal lagoon behind Progreso 2 Dec (EG). A basic-plumaged ad. Gray Gull photographed by Swedish birders at Celestún 23 Feb (HO, MT) furnished a first record for Mexico. There is one record of the species for North America n. of Mexico, from Louisiana. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were behind Chuburná 1 Dec (WS), and a Kelp Gull was at Chuburná harbor the same day (AD). A Forster's Tern at El Cuyo 1 Dec (SC, BM, MM, ER, AR, MT) was unusual, and a lingering Least Tern was in the coastal lagoon behind Progreso the same day (WS).



These photographs provide the first documentation for the occurrence of Fox Sparrows in Chihuahua. The first bird (left), of the subspecies *schistacea*, was found at La Presa near Casa de Janos 4 January 2008. Photograph by Mark Watson. The second bird (center) is probably of the subspecies *zaboria* and was found in Casa de Janos 2 (here 11) January 2008. Photograph by Rich Hoyer. Finally, the third, with a plumage somewhat intermediate between *zaboria* and *schistacea*, was found in Casa de Janos 2 January 2008. Photograph by William Howe.

DOVES THROUGH CATBIRDS

A Gray-headed Dove was photographed at Muyl, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve 20 Dec, n. of its known range (MH, LK). A Mangrove Cuckoo was along the Palizada road, Camp. 16 Jan (MC, SC, DS), while a Pheasant Cuckoo was heard calling between Samahil and Tetziz 21 Feb (DB). A Yucatan Poorwill was found along the road to Sudzal 2 Dec (WS). A Smoky-brown Woodpecker at Hacienda Chichén gardens 1 Dec (AR) was far w. of its known distribution on the border with Quintana Roo. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Guayacal near Puerto Morelos 19 Dec (MH, LK). Several Scissor-tailed Flycatchers brightened the subregion, with singles between Dzonot Carretero and Río Lagartos 1 Dec (SC, BM, MM, ER, AR, MT) and at Río Lagartos 1 Dec and 13 Jan (EC, SF, LK, RM, GM, AM, UO, ph. ER). Another Scissor-tailed was observed near a Fork-tailed Flycatcher along Hwy. 186 between Morcoy Jct. and Hwy. 307 on 15 Dec (DD, DF, AM, EM, DS, LT, RT, CW), and another Fork-tailed was found se. of Edzna, Camp. 13 Jan.

A Blue-headed Vireo was at Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK), and 3 Yellow-green Vireos were found along the Chunchucmil road 2 Dec (AD). A Tawny-crowned Greenlet audio-recorded at Cozumel in early Jan provided the first report for the island (RC). Unseasonable reports of Tree Swallows included 400 or more near Puerto Morelos 18 Dec (MH, LK), a similar number over a dump at Grupo Maya Resort 23 Dec (MH), and 20 se. of Edzna, Campeche 13 Jan (DB). A Bank Swallow was observed as it flew along the coast at Dzilam

de Bravo 2 Dec (SO). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK) was locally rare. Another inland sighting of White-throated Gnatcatcher came from Hacienda Chalcante 15 km e. of Izamal, Yucatan 2 Dec (SC, BM, MM, ER, AR, MT). A Black Catbird at Xcambo 1 Dec (AM) furnished the first for that site.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Significant sightings of warblers included a Blue-winged at Calakmul 13 Jan (DB); a female Tennessee at Sinunché 1 Dec (WS); a male Black-throated Blue at Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK); a female Cerulean at Cobá 18 Dec (MH, LK); single Worm-eatings at km 83 e. of Celestún 1 Dec (AD), Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK), and Muyl 20 Dec (MH, LK); a Swainson's Warbler e. of Celestún 1 Dec (AD); single Kentucky Warblers at Xcambo 1 Dec (IN), Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK), and Calakmul 13 Jan (DB); and a single Wilson's Warblers at Grupo Maya Resort 17-21 Dec (MH) and at Guayacal 19 Dec (MH, LK). Three Northern Parulas along the road to Calakmul 17 Jan extended the species' known range in the subregion (MC, SC, DS), as did the sighting of a Yellow-throated Warbler at Escárcega Pemex station 18 Jan (MC, SC, DS). A female Scarlet Tanager inside the ruins at Calakmul 14 Dec (DD, DF, AM, EM, DS, LT, RT, CW) was quite unexpected at that time of year, as was a male Scarlet nearby at Balamku 28 Dec (RM, AM). Female Western Tanagers were at Hacienda Chichén 27 Jan (IN, JW, TW) and en route to Chunchucmil e. of Celestún 21 Feb (DB). Three years ago, a pair of White-winged Tan-

agers was photographed at Central Vallarta, Quintana Roo; this season, a male was observed in the canopy of a zapote there 3 Feb (LK), which provided the 3rd subregional report. Notable birds observed between Boloncauch and Constitucion, se. of Edzna, Camp. 13 Jan included 5 Savannah Sparrows, a Grasshopper Sparrow, a female Blue-black Grosbeak, and 10 Eastern Meadowlarks (DB). A male Baltimore Oriole, an uncommon winter resident in the subregion, was at Rancho Hobonil in s. Yucatán 26 Jan (BM, RM, AM).

Fall 2007 report not published previously: A Parasitic Jaeger was off the coast of Río Lagartos 28 Nov (ph. DN).

Contributors cited: Marcos Ake, David Bacab, Rogelio Bautista, Susan Breisch, Richard Breisch, Elio Caamal, Elmer Canul, Michael Carmody, Linda & Lanny Carter, Rafael Chacón, Santiago Contreras, Robert Curry, Diane Drobka, Bob Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Alex Dzib, Henry Dzib, Sandra Flores, Delilah Foldes, Edwin Gongora, Michael Hogg, Luis Kú, Barry S. Levine, Barbara MacKinnon, Mario Marín, Amy McAndrews, Art Magliner, Elaine Magliner, Alberto Mezquita, Rodrigo Migoya, Gabriel Moguel, Jorge Montejo, Ana Morales, Diego Núñez, Haakan Oertman, Susana Ojeda, Uriel Ortiz, Adan Oliveras, Gustavo Orozco, Rodrigo Pool, Patricia Ramírez, Erik Ramos, Alberto Rodríguez, Alberth Rosado, David Salas, Waldemar Santamaria, Leopoldo Sánchez, Ann Snook, Melgar Tabasco, Mats Tallin, Lynne Taylor, Rick Taylor, Jerry Williams, Terry Williams, Craig Wilcox. 🐦

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Central America



H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

This was a more-or-less typical winter in Central America, with numerous reports of marginally occurring migrants and rare residents. The few second or third country reports, such as Burrowing Owl, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and Ash-throated Flycatchers in El Salvador, and Blue Seedeater in Guatemala, almost certainly represent regularly occurring species that are rarely detected. Even four country firsts reported from Nicaragua (American Bittern, Black-banded Woodcreeper, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo) probably occur regularly. At least one undisputed vagrant made its way to Central America this winter: a Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher in Panama in early December, providing the first record north of South America.

WATERFOWL THROUGH KITES

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, rare in Panama, were at Las Macanas Marsh, *Herrera* 24 Feb (JAC, OQ, GAR). Central America's first Canada Goose, found at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary (hereafter, W.S.), *Belize* 25 Oct, remained until late Dec (*fide* LJ)—word on the street was that someone had roast goose for Christmas! Cinnamon Teal is an occasional winter visitor in Costa Rica, but it has been several years since one was reported, so a male at Lagunas Catfish Farm near Comunidad Guanacaste, *Guanacaste* 24-28 Feb (DR, RAn, DA, CJ) was unexpected. Perhaps even more impressive were the 2 male Green-winged Teal there 15 Feb (†JZ), with one bird remaining through 28 Feb (CJ). This was the first Costa Rica report since 2000. In Panama, 2 Northern Shovelers, rare in s. Central America, found at Las Macanas Marsh 2 Dec (†RM, AA) were joined by another bird 24 Feb (JAC, †OQ, GAR). Another shoveler was found at Tocumen Marsh, *Panamá* 8 Feb (†CB). Two Northern Pintails, irregular in Belize, were at Nova Shrimp Farm, Ladyville 9 Dec (PB et al.). A female Green-winged Teal observed from a low-flying plane during a waterfowl survey at Colima, *Cuscatlán* 18 Jan (†RIP) provided the 4th report for El Salvador. Ring-necked Duck numbers have in-

creased significantly in Belize in the past 20 years, but they remain relatively scarce elsewhere in the Region. There were 8 at L. Petén Itza, *Petén*, Guatemala 8 Feb (RK et al.); 6 at El Castillo, *Río San Juan*, Nicaragua 16 Feb (JM), and one male at Las Macanas Marsh, *Panamá* 2 Dec (RM, AA). Six Ruddy Ducks graced the oxidation ponds at El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras 13 Jan (DLA, KB); these furnished the first winter report for the country and perhaps the first verifiable report since 1954. Rarely reported in Guatemala, an Ocelated Quail was heard calling at Samac, *Alta Verapaz* 4 Feb (KE, CA).

Because much remains to be learned about the distribution and seasonality of pelagic species in Central America, all but the most routine observations should be reported. This season, 15 Pink-footed Shearwaters were observed 87 km off Escuintla, Guatemala 26 Jan (PV, VD), and another was seen 45 km ssw. of Punta Judas, Costa Rica 12 Jan (RiG, PMu, BY, JZ). Five Audubon's Shearwaters were about 16 km off Los Cóbano, *Sonsonate*, El Salvador 20 Dec (RIP, LP, AR, MS), and 2 imm. Red-billed Tropicbirds were off there 28 Feb (both RIP, LP, †MR). Seven Blue-footed Boobies in the Gulf of Fonseca, *La Unión* 20-21 Feb (RIP, LyS, EB, GerG, PA) and an imm. Nazca Booby off Los Cóbano 20 Dec (†RIP, LP, AR, MS) continued a recent spate of sightings in El Salvador. Fifty American White Pelicans 8 Feb (CCA) provided an apparent first for L. Atitlán. A Brown Pelican was observed 75 km inland over San Antonio Village, *Cayo*, Belize 10 Jan (LJ, WM, JW), and a Magnificent Frigatebird soaring with Turkey Vultures e. of Roaring Creek, *Cayo* 1 Dec (StL) was 38 km inland.

An American Bittern at Isla El Zapote in the Solentiname Archipelago, *Río San Juan* 26 Dec (JM) is apparently the first ever reported in Nicaragua. Another was seen at Hotel Finca Las Glorias, Lago de Yojoa, *Cortés*, Honduras 14 Feb (RG et al.), where seldom encountered. Elsewhere in *Río San Juan*, a Rufescent Tiger-Heron graced Los Guatuzos 18 Feb (JM). A Jabiru at Playa Naranjo estuary, Santa Rosa N.P., *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica 5 Jan (LG) furnished a first report for the park. Pearl Kites continue to expand their range in Costa Rica; one between La Garita and Cebadilla de Alajuela 28 Dec (RiG) furnished the first from the Central Valley. Meanwhile, singles at Es-

tero Negro between Limón and Cahuita 1 Dec (PM) and Río Sixaola near Bribri 4 Jan (LS), both in *Limón*, were the first along Costa Rica's se. slope. An ad. Plumbeous Kite at Carara N.P., *Puntarenas* 23 Dec (JA, RA) was unseasonable. The peak of breeding for the recently formed Snail Kite colony at L. Guija, *Santa Ana* was noted 23 Dec, when 35 ads. were attending 17 nestlings or fledglings (NH, ph. LP). The final nest count reached 15 (seven nests and 60 ads. were reported in the fall issue). This species was first documented in El Salvador in 1996, at Laguna El Jocotal, and has spread quickly to wetlands across the country.

HARRIERS THROUGH JAEGER

A Northern Harrier at Las Macanas Marsh 24 Feb (JAC) was noteworthy for Panama.

Presumed to be a rare resident in the country, a White-breasted Hawk was at Loma Fría, Dipilto, *Nueva Segovia*, Nicaragua 4 Jan (JM, PS, AC, DM, FM). Reports of other rare raptors included an ad. Crane Hawk at San Francisco Menéndez, *Ahuachapán*, El Salvador 21 Feb (†SW, RW) and one juv. Broad-winged Hawk at the n. entrance to Mountain Pine Ridge, *Cayo*, Belize 10 Jan (LJ, WM, JW). Swainson's Hawks are seldom seen in n. Central America during winter, so three reports in



This immature Red-billed Tropicbird at sea off Los Cóbano 28 February 2008 provided only the fifth record for El Salvador and possibly the first documented photographically. Photograph by Melissa Rodríguez.

El Salvador were noteworthy: singles at Municipio de Pasaquina, *La Unión* 18 Jan (OK, JF) and Sanjón del Chino, San Francisco Menéndez, *Ahuachapán* 3 Feb (OK, RB, RJ, IV); and 3 at Municipio Chiltiupan, *La Libertad* 2 Feb (OK, †RB, RJ, IV). Single Red-tailed Hawks at Municipio de Pasaquina 18 Jan (CF) and 4 Feb (JF, KL) represented the first reports for *La Unión*, El Salvador.

An Ornate Hawk-Eagle graced Pico Bonito, *Atlántida* during the first week of Jan (JMC); this species is rarely reported in Honduras outside Moskitia. Two Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles were seen together from Río Su-



Twelve years after the first country record, Snail Kites were finally documented breeding in El Salvador. The colony was located at Lake Guija, with peak numbers noted 23 December 2007, when 35 adults were counted attending 15 nests. These photographs from 25 November 2007 depict a hatchling in a nest and an adult male. Photographs by Luis Pineda.

cio Bridge, Braulio Carrillo N.P., *Limón*, Costa Rica 22 Feb (CS). In Belize, at least 2 Crested Caracaras wintered near Running W Farm and nearby Spanish Lookout ferry crossing, *Cayo* (m.ob.). A Bat Falcon hunting over Playa Amatecampo, *La Paz* 5 Jan (LR) established one of the few recent reports for El Salvador, and another at Perquín 10 Feb (OB, †CF) is apparently the first reported at *Morazán* since 1942. A Rufous-necked Wood-Rail on the outskirts of Punta Gorda, *Toledo* 19 Dec (EMcR) provided one of the few reports for mainland s. Belize. Two Yellow-breasted Crakes were documented at the edge of the lagoon at Caño Negro, *Alajuela*, Costa Rica 17 Jan (†KEa); this species is seldom reported in Central America.

All previous reports of Long-billed Curlews in El Salvador have been of single birds, so the following observations are noteworthy: 2 at Bahía de Jiquilisco, *Usulután* 16 Feb (EM, ph MRI); 3 at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 23 Feb (†SW, RW); and 5 at Isla Pajarito 28 Feb (†EM). A Surfbird was at Toluca, *La Libertad* 2 Feb (RIP, JB, DS). A Red Knot at Robert's Grove, Placencia Pen., *Stann Creek*, Belize 17-18 Jan (PB) was noteworthy, as this species is declining in the Region. Following this past fall's 2nd report of Long-billed Dowitcher in El Salvador, 416 birds were at Colima and the lower Río Soyate estuary, Cerrón Grande Res., *Chalatenango* 2 Feb (†RIP, GG, JB, DS). Farther s., in Costa Rica, a flock of 500 was identified by vocalizations at Lagunas Catfish Farm 15 Jan (†MG, CG). This species is proving to be of regular occurrence in the Region now that local observers are paying more attention to shorebirds. Two Wilson's Snipe were at Isla Chacalingo, Colima 2 Feb (RIP, GG, DS, JB, PT). A remarkable 60 Roseate Terns and 2-3 Common Terns joined other

larids at Punta Gorda 2 Dec (†LJ), with 6 Roseates remaining through 19 Dec (JBe) and the Commons through 25 Jan (LJ). The seasonality of these two species in Belize remains to be determined. Especially noteworthy was another Common Tern at New River, *Orange Walk* 24 Jan (†BF, M&JH, JS, m.ob.), as there are few inland reports in the Region. Also noteworthy was a Forster's Tern at Crooked Tree W.S. 17 Jan and 9 Feb (†LJ, RK et al.). With only four previous reports for El Salvador, duos of Pomarine Jaegers 16 km off Los Cónanos 20 Dec (†RIP, LP, AR, MS) and the Gulf of Fonseca 21 Feb (RIP, LyS, EB, GerG, PA) were notable.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seventy White-winged Doves at South Stann Creek Bridge, *Stann Creek* 1 Dec (PB) were within the normal range of fall migration but represented an impressive number so late in the season. Noteworthy were 7 Orange-fronted Parakeets on the Caribbean slope at Caño Negro 8 Jan (AD), well n. and e. of the species' range in Costa Rica. Quite unexpected were 5 Brown-throated Parakeets at Parque Lefevre, Panama City 7 Jan (GB). In Nicaragua, a Barred Parakeet was at Selva Negra, *Matagalpa* 20 Feb (JM), where the species is a poorly documented resident. A few Yellow-lored Parrots wintered at Caye Caulker (JBe, DBE) following their arrival shortly after the passage of Hurricane *Dean* in mid-Oct. Mangrove Cuckoos visited Nova Shrimp

Farm, Ladyville 9 Dec (PB et al.) and Punta Culebra, Panama City 15 Jan (AA). Rare in Panama, Pheasant Cuckoos were reported at Rancho Ramos, near Colón 2 Feb (AA) and along Plantation Rd., *Panamá* 12 Feb (†CB). A Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo at Heliconias Lodge, Bijagua, on the w. slope of Tenorio Volcano, *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica 19 Feb (HB), established a newly documented locality for this elusive forest species. A Great Horned Owl at Loma Fria, Dipilto 4 Jan (JM, PS, AC, DM, FM) was the first reported in this area of Nicaragua. Rarely reported, a Black-



A concentration of more than 400 Long-billed Dowitchers 2 February 2008 at the Cerrón Grande Reservoir suggests that the species is regular at least in some winters in El Salvador. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

and-white Owl was heard calling almost nightly 6-14 Jan at the Lodge at Pico Bonito, Honduras (DLA, †GH). A Burrowing Owl at Cerro El Mogote, Pasaquina, *La Unión* 4-6 Feb (JF, KL) provided the 3rd report for El Salvador and the first since 1927. Perhaps not as rare in Honduras as the few reports would suggest, a Short-tailed Nighthawk flew over



This Roseate Tern was one of approximately 60 in a mixed flock of terns and gulls that included 2 Common Terns. Found 2 December 2007 (here) in Punta Gorda, Belize, this flock provided the first confirmed winter-period record for the country. At least six birds remained for the Christmas Bird Count on 19 December. Photograph by Lee Jones.

the Lodge at Pico Bonito at dusk 14 Jan (DLA); three of the four reported sites in Honduras are in *Atlántida*.

Rarely reported in Guatemala, 2 Great Swallow-tailed Swifts were seen at Acatenango Volcano, *Sacatepéquez* 26 Jan (AK). A Band-tailed Barbthroat (MB, DB, LJ) and a Brown Violetear (PB, WM) were observed at a flowering Malay apple (*Syzygium malaccense*) at Boom Creek, *Toledo* 19 & 22 Dec; both birds were at the n. edge of their range, and the latter was unexpectedly in lowlands. A male White-necked Jacobin at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitupéquez* 1 Jan (†KE) provided the first photographic documentation for the Guatemalan Pacific slope. Rare in Costa Rica, a Blue-tailed Hummingbird was found at Sendero Carbonal, Santa Rosa N.P. 29 Dec (LG). A Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, typically found in sub-montane habitats above 1000 m, was found along the 840-m ridge at Pico Dama 13 Jan (IG), thus establishing a new report for the Rio Plátano Biosphere Reserve, *Gracias a Dios*. Several Snowcaps, including an ad. male, a female, and several imm. males, at Pico Dama 13-15 Jan furnished the 2nd record for Honduras (†RG, IG et al.), although the species is likely resident at this seldom-visited locality. A male Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird at San Vicente Volcano, El Salvador 25 Jan (OB, CF) established the first for *San Vicente*. At 550 m, a young male Resplendent Quetzal at Sendero Las Palmas, Quebrada González Ranger Station, Braulio Carrillo N.P. 14-15 Jan (LSe, †ML, PSu) was at a very low elevation; the species is seldom observed below 1000 m.

Ringed Kingfishers were thought to be extirpated from El Salvador in the 1970s, but populations have recovered and are again found throughout the coastal plain; 2 at Bay of La Unión 15 Jan (CF) were the first to be reported in *La Unión*. Following this past fall's

mini-invasion after the passage of Hurricane *Dean*, Keel-billed Toucans wintered at Ambergris Caye, Belize, a new locality (SL). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Metropolitan Nature Park, *Panamá* 12 Dec (WA) was rare. A male Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Loma El Barquito, Municipio de San Alejo, *La Unión* 5 Feb (†MR, LGi) joined by a female the following day (JF, †KL), provided the 2nd report for El Salvador; a 3rd Ladder-backed was found a few km farther n. at Salinera La Ceiba, *La Unión* 7 Feb (JF, KL). Breeding re-

mains unconfirmed in this population, which inhabits mangroves in the Gulf of Fonseca of s. Honduras and El Salvador. The westernmost record of Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker in North America, and the first w. of the Canal Area, was established with a male at Altos del Maria, *Panamá* 6 Feb (JR, †FS).

WOODCREEPERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Three Black-banded Woodcreepers at Tepesomoto-La Patata Natural Reserve, *Madriz* 17 Jan (†JM, PS, AC, DM, FM) provided the first report for Nicaragua. Rufous-rumped Antwrens are very rare and sparsely distributed residents of middle-elevation forests in Costa Rica, where few locations are known; one at Rainforest Aerial Tram, *Limón* 18 Dec (ALA) was the first report for that site. A Scaled Antpitta, rare in Panama, was at El Valle, *Coclé* 7 Dec (TS, VP). Seldom seen during winter on the coastal slope of Belize, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Mama Noots Backabush Resort, *Stann Creek* 14 Jan (LJ, WM, JW). At the extreme n. limit of its winter range on the Caribbean slope, a Willow Flycatcher at The Dump 19 Dec (LJ) was one of no more than six winter reports in Belize, and all are in s. *Toledo*. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher in pine-oak forest at Loma Fría, Dipilto 4 Jan (†JM, PS, AC, DM, FM) provided the first for Nicaragua. With only one previous documented record for El Salvador, an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Municipio La Unión 3 Feb (v.r. JF, †KL) and 2 others at Cerro El Mogote, Pasaquina 4 Feb (v.r. JF) were noteworthy. By far the vagrant highlight of the season was the Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) carefully documented at Cerro

Azul, *Panamá* 1-4 Dec (†KiL, DAR, RR, PSh) that provided the first record for Panama and North America. This austral migrant has southerly populations that migrate northward to w. Amazonia, but there apparently is no previous report w. of the Andes.

An Eastern Kingbird with a damaged foot near Burrell Boom, *Belize* 16 Dec (SM) provided one of the few Dec reports in the Region. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Tocumen Airport, *Panamá* (†IH) was at the s. limit of its winter range. White-eyed Vireos at the s. extreme of their range were found in Panama at Gatún Locks, *Colón* 6 Feb (CB, KZ) and the n. Pacific coast of *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica 10 Dec (†JWo, MW) that furnished the first for that area. A Bell's Vireo at Salinera La Ceiba, San Alejo, *La Unión* 7 Feb (JF) provided the 8th report for El Salvador and the first since 1975. A Plumbeous Vireo at Miraflores, *Esteli* 22-23 Dec (AC, PS) furnished the first Nicaraguan report to be published (*fide* JM). Another



This Common Tern, found at the New River lagoon 24 January 2008, provided one of the few inland records for Belize. Photograph by Bert Frenz.

Plumbeous at Perquín, *Morazán*, El Salvador 26 Feb (†SW, RW) appeared to be of the migratory subspecies from North America, apparently a vagrant to Central America and previously unreported from that country. A Blue-headed Vireo at Cerros Diría above Santa Cruz, *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica 16 Feb (CJ, JZ) was locally rare. A Hutton's Vireo at Miraflores Nature Reserve, *Esteli* 24 Dec (†JM, PS, AC, DM, FM) represented the first for Nicaragua. Rounding out the list of rare vireos was a Warbling Vireo at Finca Hartmann, Santa Clara, *Chiriquí* 12 Jan (†JC, DOB) that furnished the 3rd report for Panama. A Brown-capped Vireo at Finca Santa Margarita, San Vicente Volcano 25 Jan (OB, †CF) was the first for *San Vicente*, El Salvador.

Two Steller's Jays at El Manzano, Dulce Nombre de María, *Chalatenango*, 20 Dec (OB, CF) established a new locality in El Salvador.



Furnishing only the third record of Ladder-backed Woodpecker for El Salvador, this female was accompanied by a male at Municipio de San Alejo, La Unión department 6 February 2008. The species probably breeds in the mangrove forests around the Gulf of Fonseca. Photograph by Karla Lara.

An Azure-hooded Jay at 500 m on the lower slopes of Pico Bonito the first week in Jan (JAd, GH) furnished the first for ne. Honduras and marked the lowest elevation at which the species has been found in Honduras. A male Purple Martin at Placencia Pen. 17 Jan (PB) provided an early spring report for Belize. Fifteen Tree Swallows feeding on *Myrica* berries along Lava Flow trail, Arenal Volcano N.P., *Alajuela* 28 Dec, and 30 there 13 Jan (CS), furnished unusually large numbers so far s., while 20 other Tree Swallows at Playa Metalio, *Sonsonate*, El Salvador 23 Feb (†SW) were rare. Two Cave Swallows at Playa Coronado, *Panamá* 1 Jan (DK) furnished the 4th report for Panama. Even though all previous reports of Brown Creepers in El Salvador were from the w. half in *Chalatenango* or *Santa Ana*, 4 or more at Cerro El Pericón, *Morazán* 11 Feb (†OB, †CF, TJ) were not unexpected because other creepers are found across the border in Honduras. A Bay Wren at 1550 m at Selva Negra, Nicaragua 20 Feb (GDe) was outside its typical elevational range for the species and furnished the first local report. A Tawny-faced Gnatwren at Los Guatuzos 18 Feb (JM) was at the n. edge of its range in s. Nicaragua. Following the apparent southward incursion of Hermit Thrushes into El Salvador this past fall, one at El Imposible N.P. 22 Feb (†SW, RW) was extralimital. Five Cedar Waxwings at Guápiles, *Limón* 16 Jan (AD) and one at Arenal Observatory Lodge 11 Feb (†LC) were the only ones reported.

WARBLERS THROUGH MUNIAS

Blue-winged Warblers were notable at Metropolitan Park, Panama 16 Jan (AA) and El Imposible N.P., El Salvador 22 Feb (†SW, RW).

Golden-winged Warblers, seldom reported in n. Guatemala during winter, were found in *Petén*: singles at Ixlú 20 Dec (KE, CA) and Tikal N.P. 12 Jan (LJ, WM, JW). An impressive 3 Brewster's Warblers were found in Costa Rica this winter: a first-generation male along La Selva-Barva Volcano transect trail, Braulio Carrillo N.P., *Heredia* 15 Dec (LG, OV), another along the road into Tapanti N.P., *Cartago* 14 Jan (AB), and one male at Bajo del Tigre Reserve, Monteverde, *Puntarenas* 3 Feb (KBr). There have been few reports of Nashville Warbler in El Salvador recently, so one mist-netted at Los Volcanes N.P., *Santa Ana* 16 Jan was notable (†RJ, IV, GF, HA)—this was the first Nashville caught by the SalvaNATURA bird monitoring project in five years of intensive mist-netting, compared with 22 Nashvilles netted in El Salvador during the mid-1970s. Another Nashville at Casa Río Blanco, Guápiles 18 Dec (MA, RDa, HP) was well s. of its normal winter range. A Northern Parula at Las Bocanitas, *La Libertad* 25 Jan (†RIP) established the 7th record for El Salvador, most of them in mangroves. Another parula at Tikal N.P. 19 Dec (AK) was very rare in interior Guatemala.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Cerro Verde, Los Volcanes N.P., *Santa Ana* 20 Feb (†SW, RW) furnished the 3rd report for El Salvador. Rare anywhere on mainland Central America, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Perquín 31 Jan (†CF, OB) established the first record for *Morazán* and the 3rd for El Salvador, while another male furnished the first report for Tikal N.P., *Petén*, Guatemala 11 Jan (*fide* RC) and 7 Feb (RK et al.). Golden-cheeked Warblers are being reported nearly annually in Costa Rica, primarily in mts. around the Central Valley, with females this season at Monteverde (Cordillera de Tilarán) in mid-Dec (RD, DJ, GD) and El Cedral, Cerros de Escazú, on the s. side of the Central Valley, *San José*, 9 Feb (DKe). A male Golden-cheeked at Atilán Reserve, *Sololá*, Guatemala 22 Feb (KE, CA) was unexpected. Surveys in the species' regular winter range in the pine-oak forests of n. Central America found 56 Golden-cheeked Warblers, 14 in Guatemala, 17 in Honduras, 13 in Nicaragua, and 12 in El Salvador (BG, JVD, OB, JM et al., *fide* OK), compared with 50 individuals this past winter.

Other warblers of note included a Yellow-throated at Cerro Azul, Panama 6 Jan (RM, KK, DaM, DeM, DK), one Prairie at Belmopan, Cayo, Belize 29 Dec and 1 Jan (PB), a Palm at La Guinea a few km downriver from Filadelfia, *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica 15 Feb (JZ), and a Blackpoll at Monteverde in mid-Dec (RD). Female Cerulean Warblers at Bella Vista Arriba, above Guápiles 18 Dec (EBI) and Rincón de La Vieja N.P. near sector Pailas,

Guanacaste 10 Jan (LS) furnished rare winter reports so far north. Three Ovenbirds were at 2200 m elevation at Cerro Alux, *Sacatepéquez*, Guatemala 3 Jan (KE, RO). A Hooded Warbler at Metropolitan Nature Park, Panama 11 Jan (CB) was locally rare. A group of 6 Common Bush-Tanagers at La Montañona forest, *Chalatenango* 8 Jan (OB) were presumed to be altitudinal migrants; the nearest known breeding population is at El Pital, 30 km to the nw. and several hundred meters higher in elevation. Providing one of the few documented reports for Belize was a Western Tanager at Burrell Boom, *Belize* 16 Dec (PB, MB, JR, DB). A female Flame-colored Tanager at Isla de Upá, La Dalia, *Matagalpa*, Nicaragua 3 Dec (PS, AC) provided the first report for the area.

A male Blue Seedeater at Atilán Reserve 2 Feb (†KE) provided the 2nd verifiable record for Guatemala, following a specimen taken in 2002. A Slaty Finch mist-netted at Montecristo N.P. 16 Jan (RJ, †IV, GF, HA) provided the 7th report for El Salvador. Eastern Meadowlark has been expanding its range in the Region as forests are converted to pastures. Six at Gallon Jug, Chan Chich Lodge, nw. Belize in mid-Feb (BZ) furnished the highest count to date. In El Salvador, 2 meadowlarks at Cantón La Hachadura, San Francisco Menéndez 3 Feb (OK, RB, RJ, IV) furnished the 2nd report for *Ahuachapán*. Noteworthy also were 2 Streak-backed Orioles, believed to be of natural provenance, visiting a flowering tree at San Isidro de Heredia on the n. side of Costa Rica's Central Valley 11 Dec (DR). In Belize, at least one of the 2 Spot-breasted Orioles found outside Punta Gorda in mid-Oct wintered (LJ). Two or more Chestnut-headed Oropendolas at Boom Creek 19 & 22 Dec (PB, LJ, WM) added a new species to the list for this frequently birded area.

Two White-vented Euphonias foraging in mistletoe at the Lodge at Pico Bonito during the first half of Jan (†RT) were the first to be photographed in Honduras. Five (2 females, 3 males) at 1550 m at Selva Negra 20 Feb (JM) were above their typical elevation and furnished the first for that area of Nicaragua. Two Tawny-capped Euphonias were found at Cerro Turrubares, behind Carara N.P., *San José* 23 Dec (PW); the species is apparently a rare resident in the foothills of the "Dota" region (Pacific slope of Cerro de La Muerte). Two noteworthy reports of Red Crossbill were received: single males at Tisey, *Estelí*, Nicaragua 21 Feb (JM) and Rio Escondido, *Baja Verapaz*, Guatemala 28 Feb (CA, KE). An ad. Tricolored Munia mist-netted near Bellavista Lodge on the lower slopes of Rincón de La Vieja Volcano 16 km n. of Liberia, *Guanacaste* 27 Dec (†BH, †GDU) represents a 30-km northward extension in its



Nashville Warbler, once a regular winter visitor in El Salvador, has apparently become a rare vagrant in recent times. This bird mist-netted at Los Volcanes National Park 16 January 2008 was the first one caught by the SalvaNATURA bird monitoring project in five years of intensive mist-netting at multiple sites. Photograph by Roselvy Juárez.

Costa Rican range. Farther n. and w., populations are also forming in El Salvador.

Contributors cited (country coordinators in boldface): James Adams (JAd), William Adsett, Ariel Aguirre, Alvaro Alvarado (AlA), Joel Alvarado, Rodolfo Alvarado, Marvin Alvarez, Carol C. Anderson, David L. Anderson (Honduras), Debbie Anderson, Rick Anderson (RAn), George Angehr (Panama), Pablo Angel, Gloriela Archbold (GAR), Dennis Arendt (DAR), Claudia Avendaño, Hugo Azucena, Mychal Balderamos, Philip Balderamos, Jorge Barahona, Enrique Barraza, Avery Bartels, Guido Berguido, Carlos Bethancourt, Dorothy Beveridge (DBe), Jim Beveridge (JBe), Esteban Biamonte (EBi), Robin Bjork, Kelvin Boddén, Oscar Bolaños, Henry Brenes, Kenneth Brock (KBr), David Bustamante, José Maria Calderón, Leonardo Chaves, Julie Craves, Aura Cruz, Jan Axel Cubilla, Vanessa Davila, Roger Davis (RDa), Robert Dean, Glenda Denniston (GDe), Gary Diller, Adolfo Downs, Glenn Dulmage (GDu), Kevin Easley (KEa), Knut Eisermann (Guatemala), Jesse Fagan, Bert Frenz, Carlos Funes, Guillermo Funes, Irma Gallardo, Robert Gallardo, Giovanni García, German García (GerG), Mark Garland, Leonardo Garrigues, Richard Garrigues (RiG), Luis Girón (LGi), Charlie Gómez, Néstor Herrera, Bill Hilton, Greg Homel, Iván Hoyos, Mark & Joanie Hubinger, Ricardo Ibarra Portillo, Tom Jenner (El Salvador), Carlos Jiménez, Lee Jones (Belize),

Dev Joslin, Roselvy Juárez, Karl Kaufmann, Dan Keller (DKe), Anders King, Dave Klauber, Richard Knapton, Oliver Komar, Susan Lala, Karla Lara, Kit Larsen (KiL), Steve Larson (StL), Mark Lockwood, Jeffrey McCrary (Nicaragua), Don Mackler, Ellen McRae (EMcR), Paco Madrigal, Esmeralda Martínez, Rosabel Miró, Steve Mitten, Darién Montañez (DaM), Delicia Montañez (DeM), Francisco Muñoz, Paul Murgatroyd (PMu), Wilfred Mutrie, Darrin O'Brien, Robert Ohrenstein, Vince Parslow, Luis Pineda, Herbie Proost, Osvaldo Quintero, Joshua Richards, Marvin Rivas (MRI), Roger Robb, Adriana Rodríguez, Melissa Rodríguez, Dennis Rogers, John Rowlett, Lawrence Rubey, Mario Sagastizado, Dagoberto Salgado, Lya Samayoa (LyS), César Sánchez, Faustino Sánchez, Tino Sánchez, Luis Sandoval, Larry Semo (LSe), John Schenk, Paul Sherrell (PSH), Pablo Sommariba, Paul Sunby (PSu), Pedro Tobías, Roy Toft, Orlando Vargas, Iselda Vega, Pilar Velásquez, Renee West, Steve West, Pieter Westra, Jim Wittenberger, John Woodcock (JWo), Maureen Woodcock, Bruce Young, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer, Jim Zook (Costa Rica). 🐦

H. Lee Jones, 901 E. Washington Street, Apt. 126 Colton, California 92324, (lee_jones@att.net)

Oliver Komar

SalvaNATURA Conservation Science Program
33 Avenida Sur #640, San Salvador, El Salvador
(okomar@salvanatura.org)

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**Robert L. Norton
Anthony White
Andrew Dobson**

It was a relatively quiet season, with no major storms or other catastrophic events. Highlights included Black Rail and Purple Sandpiper at Bermuda; Redhead in the Bahamas; Pacific Golden-Plover, Spotted Redshank, and Southern Lapwing at Barbados; Striated Heron at Guadeloupe; and Wilson's Snipe at Saba. An Aplomado Falcon of unknown provenance was photographed at Puerto Rico, an unlikely site for a natural vagrant—but how did it get there?

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

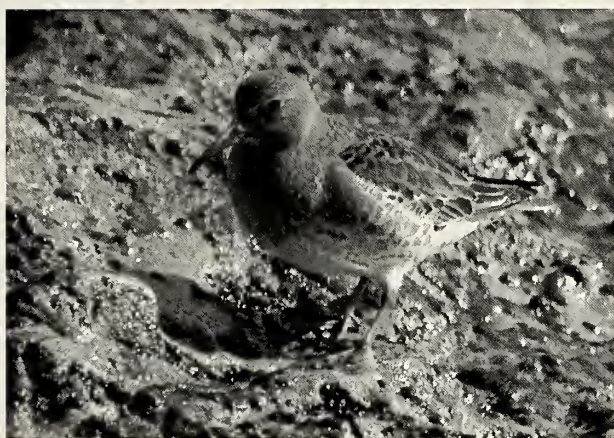
A West Indian Whistling-Duck was at Rock Sound, Eleuthera I., Bahamas 19 Dec (RB), while 47 others were at Jolly Harbour, Antigua 5 Jan (SB). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck off Double-breasted Cay, Ragged Is., Bahamas 15 Jan was near a part of the island devoid of goats and sheep and with a healthy growth of sea oats (CS, AB). Geese in the Region included a Snow Goose at Guadeloupe 2 Dec (AL); 2 Canada Geese at Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 13 Feb (RC) and another that wintered nearby at North Pond; and a Brant that wintered at Tucker's Point G.C. (AD) to furnish the 9th report for Bermuda. An imm. swan flew over Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 14 Jan (DW). Eighteen species of ducks were reported at Bermuda, among these a Eurasian Wigeon at Harrington Sound 29 Feb+ (AD). Single American Wigeons were found at Petit-Canal, Guadeloupe 4 Dec (AL) and Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco all season (TH, m.ob.), while 2 others and a Northern Shoveler wintered at Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama (BP, m.ob.). Another shoveler and a Northern Pintail were at Maillis's Ponds, Adelaide, New Providence 23 Jan (ph. TH). A male Eurasian Teal enlivened Spittal Pond, Bermuda 20 Jan+ (DBW). Notable duck reports included a female Redhead at West End, Grand Bahama I.

11-14 Jan (BH, EB, TW, T&JG), a Ring-necked Duck at Potworks Dam, Antigua 4 Jan (SB), 50 Lesser Scaup at Marsh Harbour, Abaco 22 Jan (EB, BH, TW, FS), and a Common Goldeneye at Parson's Road Pond, Bermuda 12 Jan+ (DBW). Up to 4 Lesser Scaup alternated between Jolly Harbour and Potworks, Antigua 30 Dec-3 Jan (SB). In the Bahamas, as many as 4 Red-breasted Mergansers wintered at New Providence (ph. AM, m.ob.), with another off Treasure Cay Beach, Abaco I. 17 Feb (EB, NBD). Up to 25 Ruddy Ducks were at Jolly Harbour, Antigua 30 Dec (SB).

Least Grebes are common in the Bahamas, but birds in two ponds at Scotland Cay, Abaco I. 10 Feb (RR) were surprising. Eleven hours of seawatching from Petit-Terre Nature Reserve, Guadeloupe during Feb produced 57 Manx Shearwaters, 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels, and 2 Masked Boobies, plus 3 small shearwaters, a storm-petrel, and 2 jaegers that were not identified (AL). Manfredi and his group saw 4 probable Audubon's Shearwaters while crossing from Port Everglades, Florida to Grand Bahama 22 Feb. Six White-tailed Tropicbirds arrived at Tom Curry's Pt., Little Harbour, Abaco I. 9 Feb (BB). Returning White-tailed Tropicbirds were first noted in Bermuda 24 Feb, about a week later than typical (AD). Single Northern Gannets were off Gibbet's I., Bermuda 29 Dec (J&LM) and at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera I. 31 Jan (RB, JDW, ADo, SL, MR). Nine Brown Pelicans at Abaco I. 29 Dec (RP, C.B.C.) furnished a high count, while another at Rock Sound, Eleuthera I. 1 Feb (JDW) was unusual. A Great Cormorant roosted at Nonsuch I., Bermuda mid-Feb+ (JM). Anhingas are now resident at New Providence, Bahamas, with breeding observed at Twin Lakes, Paradise I., and breeding suspected at Cable Beach Pond; we will not report further on these birds unless there is a change in their status. An American Bittern was found at Rock Sound, Eleuthera I. 20 Dec (MR, RB, JDW, ADO, SL), another was tentatively identified at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 8

Feb (JG), and another was flushed at Firefly Reserve, Bermuda 5 Jan (AD, DW). The long-staying Gray Heron at Tuckers Town Bay, Bermuda was seen again 18 Jan (JM). Now almost regular in the Region, a Little Egret was found at Jolly Harbour Pools, Antigua 31 Dec (SB). Wading birds at Marsh Harbour, Abaco I. included 2 Reddish Egrets and 4 White Ibis 22 Jan (EB, BH, TW, FS). A Striated Heron at Désirade I., Guadeloupe 2 Dec (AL) provided the 3rd report for the West Indies. More than 1500 American Flamingos were seen at Cayo Paredon Grande, Camaguey Province, Cuba 24 Jan (GM et al.).

A Turkey Vulture over Little Norman's Cay, Exumas 11 Jan (EJ) was well away from its normal range in the n. Bahamas. Reports of Northern Harriers from Abaco I. included one at s. Abaco 11 Dec (EB, RPo), 2 at the old fruit farm 24 Dec (EB, TH), and one near Treasure Cay 28 Feb (EB, BM). Gundlach's Hawks were seen in Cuba at Playa las Colorados 25



Representing a first record for Bermuda, this Purple Sandpiper was at the Royal Naval Dockyard 6 January 2008. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

Jan, La Belen-Sierra del Chorrillo Protected Area, Camaguey Province 26 Jan, El Rio Hatiguanico, Matanzas Province 30 Jan, and along Maria La Gorda Trail, Pinar del Rio Province 19 Feb (GM et al.). The 2 long-staying Red-tailed Hawks continued at Bermuda (AD). An Aplomado Falcon of unknown provenance was photographed at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R. 15 Jan (BMs). Five Peregrine Falcons, including 2 imm., at Marsh Harbour, Abaco I. 22 Jan furnished a good count (EB, BH, TW, FS); another Peregrine wintered at Bermuda (AD et al.).

SA Four Bermuda Petrel chicks that were translocated to and fledged from Nonsuch I., Bermuda in 2005 returned to prospect on the island during Feb-Apr 2008. It is hoped that these birds will return in subsequent years to breed. This is the first time in nearly 400 years that Bermuda Petrels have been recorded at Nonsuch I. (Jeremy Madeiros)—and if they should indeed breed here, it will be a crowning fulfillment of the conservation efforts here launched five decades ago, a central part of which has been the restoration of native Bermudian forest to Nonsuch by David Wingate, now retired but very much active in the ongoing efforts to preserve Bermuda's wildlife and educate its citizens about the Cahow and its conservation.



This Snowy Owl at Hamilton, Bermuda was photographed 6 December 2007. The species was last recorded in Bermuda in 1987—a bird that killed many Bermuda Petrels before being shot. Photograph by Lisa Bardgett.

A Black Rail was seen well and heard at Devonshire Marsh, Bermuda 29-31 Dec (JM, LM). A Pacific Golden-Plover was reported at Congo Rd., Barbados 3 Feb, where a Spotted Redshank was first found 30 Jan (EM et al.). The family of 4 Southern Lapwings that furnished the first record for the Region continued at St. Lucy, Barbados (EM). Reports of Piping Plovers included 6 on the Grand Bahama C.B.C. 14 Dec, 22 at Green Turtle Cay on the Abaco C.B.C. 29 Dec, and 2 that wintered at Cooper's I. and Grape Bay, Bermuda (AD). Among 1500 shorebirds in one portion of Little Ragged I., Bahamas 13 Feb were 20 Piping Plovers and 40 Snowy Plovers (CS); a more complete survey should be conducted soon. An American Avocet at Reef G.C. 10-14 Dec (BP, C.B.C.) furnished a new bird for Grand Bahama. Other shorebirds found at Green Turtle Cay on the Abaco C.B.C. 29 Dec included 50 Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Wilson's Plovers, 50 Semipalmated Plovers, 2 American Oystercatchers, 7 Western Willets, 30 Ruddy Turnstones, 7 Red Knots, 15 Sanderlings, 5 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 12 Western Sandpipers, 29 Dunlins, and 30 Short-billed Dowitchers (EB, SW). Fifty Sanderlings were at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 28 Feb (EB, HP, BM). Notable shorebirds at Bermuda included a Least Sandpiper that wintered (AD, DBW) and a Purple Sandpiper on the jetty at Dockyard 6 Jan (ph. AD and DW) that furnished the first record for the island. A Wilson's Snipe at Saba I. 26 Feb (PvS) was locally rare.

A first-cycle Black-headed Gull was photographed at Marina Cay off Tortola, British Virgin Islands 21 Jan (JMe). Lone Bonaparte's Gulls were at Point à Pitre, Guadeloupe 14-16 Dec (ph. AL) and Emerald G.C., Grand Ba-

hama 3 Jan (BP). An Iceland Gull was at Great Sound, Bermuda 2 Feb (AD). At Guadeloupe, a Great Black-backed and a Ring-billed Gull were found at Basse Terre 2 Dec (AL). Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Montague Foreshore, New Providence 17 Feb (PD, TW). There were 12 Sandwich Terns at Sandy Pt., Abaco I. 3 Jan (EB, BS, TW). A Forster's Tern at Watford Bridge, Bermuda (PH) and a Black Skimmer nearby at Dockyard (PW) both lingered until 2 Dec (PW), as did a Common Tern at Point à Pitre, Guadeloupe (AL).

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES

Twenty White-winged Doves at Freeport, Grand Bahama 13 Dec represented a good count (BH, EB). Zenaïda Doves are rare at New Providence, so one at Gambier, near Tusculum 31 Jan (CW) was noteworthy. A high count of 8 Blue-headed Quail-Doves was found at Bermejas, Matanzas Province, Cuba 21 Feb (GM et al.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at the old fruit farm, Abaco I. 29 Dec (JHB, C.B.C.) was a good find. Single Barn Owls were found at Nassau 19 Dec (DS), near Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera I. 31 Jan (RB, JDW, ADo, SL, MR), near Coral Harbour, New Providence 7 Feb (CW), and near Gregory Town, Eleuthera I. 21 Feb (ADo, MR). A pair of Barn Owls at Owl Hole, Grand Bahama produced 3 fledglings (BP, ph. JR, m.ob.). A Snowy Owl, previously recorded in Bermuda in 1987, was found on a school roof at Hamilton 6-9 Dec (ph. LB). A Short-eared Owl was at Bermuda Airport 11 Dec (DBW). Chuck-will's-widows began calling at Coral Harbour, New Providence 15 Feb (CW). Twelve Bee Hummingbirds were seen at La Berraco and along the Maria la Gorda Trail, with 3 others at Las Terrazas, Pinar del Rio Province 21 Feb (GM et al.).

An unidentified *Empidonax* was found at the abandoned fruit farm, Abaco I. 29 Dec (JHB, C.B.C.), and an Eastern Phoebe was at Grand Bahama I. 6 Jan (BP). New late and early dates for Gray Kingbird in the Bahamas were established this season: one at Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 1 Jan (EB) was late, while one at Freeport, Grand Bahama I. 28 Feb (EG) was early. Two Gray Kingbirds on the New Providence C.B.C. 16 Dec set the late date for that island, while 3 at the old fruit farm, Abaco 29 Dec (JHB) were also quite late. Unusual was

the Western Kingbird at McLean's Town, Grand Bahama 27 Jan (BP). White-eyed Vireos were numerous this past fall, and many appeared to have wintered in the Bahamas, including 6 on the Grand Bahama C.B.C. 14 Dec, 10 on the New Providence C.B.C. 16 Dec, 2 at Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco I. 24 Jan (EB, BS, TW), and singles at Rose I., New Providence 25 Jan (EJ) and Scotland Cay, Abaco I. 10 Feb (RR). A record 4 Yellow-throated Vireos were seen at Bermuda: at Morgan's Pt. 29 Dec (EA), at St. Georges 29 Dec (PW), at the Arboretum 11 Jan (DW), and at the Botanical Gardens 12 Jan (DW). Two Warbling Vireos at Elbow Cay, Abaco 4 Jan (BS) would furnish the 2nd report for the Bahamas if accepted. Noteworthy reports of swallows included 3 Bahama Swallows n. of Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 30 Dec (EB), single Tree Swallows at Somerset, Bermuda 19 Dec and Ship's Hill Pond, Bermuda 26-28 Jan (DW), a Cliff Swallow at Daniel's Head Farm 26 Dec that provided the first winter report for Bermuda (DW), and 9 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Marsh Harbour dump, Abaco I. 3 Jan (EB, BS, TW). European Starlings have resumed breeding at New Providence, with one pair at Nassau (PD, JT, m.ob.). Fourteen Cuban Palm Crows (Endangered) were found at La Belen-Sierra del Chorrillo Protected Area, Camagüey Province, Cuba 26 Jan (GM et al.). House Wrens are rare in the Bahamas, so one at Roberts Nursery, Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 5 Dec (EB) was noteworthy. Reports of Bahama Mockingbirds were 13 near Greenwood Inn and Old Bight, Cat I., Bahamas 12-13 Dec (PM), 2 at Cable Beach Pond, New Providence 2 Feb (OG), one near Trans-island Canal, Grand Bahama I. 23 Feb (BP, LM et al.), and 2 at Hole-in-the-Wall, Abaco I. 28 Feb (EB, HP, BM). Up to 3 American Pipits were at the abandoned fruit farm, Abaco I. 29 Dec-3 Jan (JHB, EB, TH, BM).

Of 22 species of warblers reported at Bermuda during the season, the most unusual were a Nashville at Warwick Pond 24 Jan (DW) and a Swainson's at Riddell's Bay 15 Feb+ (AD, DW). Orange-crowned Warblers were found at Elbow Cay, Abaco I. 5 Jan (BS) and Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera I. 16 Jan (RB). Near Wallings Res., Antigua were 2 Northern Parulas 31 Dec-3 Jan and 3 Black-and-white Warblers 30 Dec (SB). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Vieux Habitants, Guadeloupe 4 Dec (AL) provided one of the most southerly reports here in the Region. Thirty-five Olive-capped Warblers were at La Guira N.P., Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba 19 Feb (GM et al.). The Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Project resighted or recaptured 15 previously banded birds and banded 11 new ones at

Eleuthera this season (*vide* JDW). Six American Redstarts were found around Wallings Res., Antigua 3 Jan (SB). A Louisiana Waterthrush was at Seabreeze, New Providence 17 Feb (PD, TW). A high count of 14 Bahama Yellowthroats came from Abaco I. 29 Dec (JHB et al.). Single Hooded Warblers were noted at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe 12 & 17 Dec (AL).

Summer Tanagers were found at Freeport, Grand Bahama 12 Dec (EB, BH, TW, T&JG) and the Arboretum, Bermuda 8-11 Jan (AD). Surveys in Cuba found low numbers of Cuban Grassquits (GM et al.); the species may be easier to find at New Providence, where exotic populations are found, than in their native Cuba due to trapping for the cagebird trade. Sparrows at Bermuda included a Grasshopper Sparrow at Southside 3 Feb (AD) and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Horseshoe Bay 29 Jan (DW). In Bermuda, a Common Redpoll at Cloverdale 17 Jan (DW) and 7 at

Little Head Park 26 Jan (AD) were notable. On Abaco I., Blue Grosbeaks were found at Hole-in-the-Wall 28 Feb (EB, BM) and the abandoned fruit farm 29 Feb. A Bobolink at Pitman's Pond, Bermuda 3 Dec (DBW) was late. At Grand Bahama, 4 Shiny Cowbirds were found 13 Dec (BH, EB), and 3 Baltimore Orioles were on the C.B.C. 14 Dec. Another Baltimore Oriole brightened Treasure Cay, Abaco 29 Dec on the C.B.C.

Contributors cited: Eric Amos, Rudy Badia, Bob Ball, Lisa Bardgett, John Harold Bethel (JHB), Alan Bolten, Elwood Bracey, Neil Brett-Davies (NBD), Simon Buckingham, Rob Chandler, Paul Dean, Alana Demko (ADo), Andrew Dobson, Bahamas National Trust Ornithology Group (OG), Erika Gates, Tom & Judy Gire, Janet Grand, Bruce Hallett, Peter Hopkin, Everton Joseph, Tony Hepburn, Jo Hofmann, Anthony Levesque, Samara

Lawrentz, Jeanne Marrazzo (JeM), Eddie Massiah, Blake Mathys (BMs), Jeremy Madeiros, Jeremy and Leila Madeiros (J&LM), Alexandra Maillis, Larry Manfredi, Gary Markowski, Becky Marvil, Predensa Moore, Ron Pagliaro (RPo), Reginald Patterson, Hagen Peters, Bruce Purdy, Ron Reid, Montara Roberts, Julia Ryan, Floyd Sawyer, Peter van Scheepen, Caroline Stahala, Dan Stevens, Brian Sullivan, John Thompson, David Wallace (DW), Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Tom Wheeler (TW), Samantha Whitcraft, Jennifer D. White (JDW), Tony White, David Wingate (DBW). ☉

Robert L. Norton, 8960 NE Waldo Road

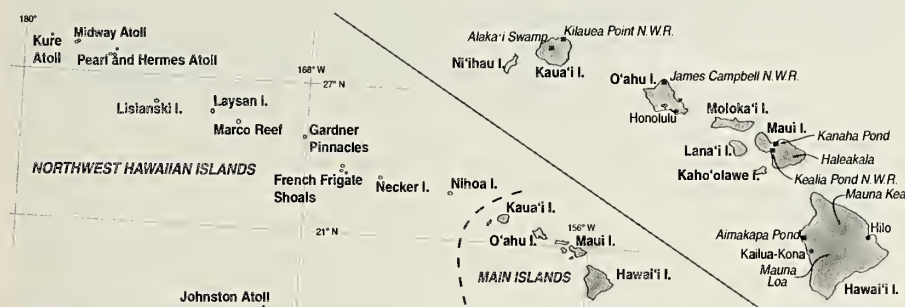
Gainesville, Florida 32609, (corvus0486@aol.com)

Anthony White, P.O. Box 2531

Jackson, Wyoming, (spindalis@aol.com)

Andrew Dobson, Warwick Academy, 117 Middle Road
Warwick PG 01, Bermuda, (ADobson@warwickacad.bm)

Hawaiian Islands



Peter Donaldson

H heavy rains fell in early December and early February, with unusually dry weather the rest of the season. December was also very windy; at times, the winds kept even large ships in port, so it is not surprising that I received reports from only two pelagic trips. The strong winds also made it dangerous to hike forest trails. Despite the weather, many observations were submitted, including those from eBird. It takes some effort to sort through the eBird data, but they provide a big boost in the number of observations. Hawaii Forest & Trail started including counts of each species seen (rather than just species) in their reports. Over time, these reports should be a big help in monitoring some of the rare endemic forest birds on Hawaii. A number of unusual migrants that arrived in the fall lingered into winter, but few additional rarities appeared.

Once again, Molokai I. had more than its share of unusual species.

Abbreviations: French Frigate Shoals (French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands N.W.R.); Hawaii (Hawaii I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kauai (Kauai I.); Kawaiie (Kawaiie Waterbird Sanctuary, Kauai I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Kokee S.P., Kauai I.); Kilauea Point (Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kauai I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); Molokai (Molokai I.); Oahu (Oahu I.); Ohiapilo (Ohiapilo Pond, Molokai I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SWIFTS

Single Greater White-fronted Geese were observed at Midway Nov+ (FMS) and Kilauea Point 16 Jan (BZ); one that been resident at Waiakea Pond, Hawaii for years was joined by another 5 Dec-22 Feb (RD, DL); 3 were on a farm at an elevation of 1000 m at Volcano, Hawaii in Oct, and one wintered (CG); and up to 3 were at Kealia 8 Dec-17 Jan (DE, MN). A Snow Goose that arrived a year earlier and summered at Kealia was observed 8 Dec-17 Jan (DE, MN). At least 14 Brant, an unusually high number, wintered in the Region (AV, MA, m.ob.), and at least 7 of these were at Molokai: 6 along the s. shore Dec+ (ADY) and one along the n. shore 29 Dec (GH). The Laysan Duck (Endangered) population translocated from Laysan I. to Midway has increased to 200 birds (FMS). Numbers of migrant ducks were low, with high counts of 50 Northern Shovelers at Makalawena, Hawaii 6 Feb (RD) and 52 Northern Pintails at Ohiapilo 30 Dec (ADY). Uncommon species included 5 Gadwalls around Ohiapilo 11 Dec+ (ADY), a Cinnamon Teal at Kauanui, Molokai 16 Jan and 28 Feb (ADY), 3 Canvasbacks at Kuilima S.T.P., Oahu 2 & 23 Feb (PD, RM, MO, MW), and a Tufted Duck at Kona S.T.P. 6 Jan+ (ph. RD). A Japanese Quail, rarely reported, was spotted at Kilohana check station, Hawaii 22 Dec (HFT). Three Short-tailed Albatrosses (Endangered) were found at Midway, one ad. that wintered and 2 subads. 1 Jan (FMS). A Red-tailed Tropicbird was found



Brant were unusually common and widespread in the Hawaiian Islands in winter 2007-2008. This gaggle was observed at the salt pond at Hanapepe on Kauai Island 25 January. Photograph by Jim Denny.



Tufted Ducks can be difficult to identify, but there was no doubt about this adult male. This bird was photographed through the fence at the Kona Sewage Treatment Plant, Hawaii 6 January 2008. Photograph by Reg David.



Three Canvasbacks wintered in Kahuku on Oahu Island (here at the Kuilima Sewage Treatment Plant, 23 February 2008). Canvasbacks are rare in the Hawaiian Islands and are usually wary enough to make photography a challenge. Photograph by Michael Walther.

at a nest cavity at Halona, Oahu on the unusually early date of 11 Jan (EV, LY), and another was spotted there 26 Feb (EV). A Brewster's Brown Booby, from the c. Pacific and rare in the Region, appeared at French Frigate Shoals 10 Feb (ph. SL). Single White-faced Ibis were observed at Kealia all winter (DE, MN) and Honouliuli 16 Jan and 17 Feb (PD, PK). There were few reports of wintering raptors: single Ospreys at Kealia 13 Dec and 3 Jan (MN) and at Sunset



Curlew Sandpipers have been reported more frequently in the Hawaiian Islands in the past several years, but they are still rare. This individual apparently wintered at Pearl Harbor but appeared only sporadically in accessible locations. This image shows the bird with two Sanderlings at Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary on Oahu Island 23 February 2008. Photograph by Peter Donaldson.

Beach, Oahu 20 Dec (PT), a Northern Harrier at Ohiapilo 13 Dec (ADY), and a Peregrine Falcon at Kii 5 Jan (MO).

Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) breed mainly during spring and summer, so a recently fledged chick at Ohiapilo 12 Jan (ADY) was quite unusual. A number of unusual shorebirds wintered in the Region, primarily at Molokai. A Hudsonian Whimbrel at various locations at s. Molokai 6 Dec+ (ADY) might have been the same individual found at Oahu during the past fall. Bristle-thighed Curlews were found regularly at Oahu and Molokai, with high counts of 40 at Kii 16 Feb 9 (PD) and up to 5 at various spots at Molokai (ADY). Another Bristle-thighed was spotted near Kekaha Kai S.P. along the Kona coast, Hawaii 15 Feb (J&PH). The Red Knot at Molokai in mid-Oct moved to Kaunakakai Stream 8 & 10 Jan (ADY) and lingered at Ohiapilo 18 Jan+ (ADY). Any peep is uncommon in the Region, so 4, probably Least Sandpipers, at Kealia 17 Jan (MN) were quite unusual. One Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, fairly common during the fall but rare during win-



Brown Boobies are locally common in the Hawaiian Islands, but few are of the pale-headed *brewsteri* subspecies from the eastern Pacific. This bird on French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (here 10 February 2008) was confiding enough to allow photography with a point-and-shoot camera. Photograph by Sabrina Luecht/United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

ter, was spotted at Kawaiee 21 Feb (DL). Single Dunlins were found at Kaneohe, Oahu 16 Jan (EV) and Kealia 17 Jan (MN). Another Dunlin at Pouhala 23 Feb provided a nice comparison with a nearby Curlew Sandpiper (ph. PD), very rare in the Region. Three Ruffs (a female and 2 males) were present at various s. Molokai wetlands early Dec-early Jan, and a male wintered at Ohiapilo 17 Jan+ (ADY).

Up to 3 Laughing Gulls and up to 2 Ring-billed Gulls were reported in several locations, providing average counts in the Region. Very rare during winter, one Franklin's Gull was a surprise at Hanapepe Salt Pond, Kauai 3 Jan (DK), while up to 2 others were at Kealia 3-17 Jan (ph. MN). Glaucous-winged Gulls have become scarce recently, so one adult at Kawaiee 25 Jan (ph. JD) was notable. Even more rare were single Glaucous Gulls at Kinikini Ditch, Kauai 6 Jan (JD) and Kawaiee 15 Jan-21 Feb (ph. JD). A Caspian Tern at Kaneohe, Oahu 16 Jan (EV) and a Common Tern at Hanapepe Salt Pond, Kauai 14 Jan-14 Feb (DL, ph. JD) furnished uncommon reports in the Region. A Mourning Dove near Ohiapilo 7 Feb (JD, JJ) furnished the 2nd report for Molokai. The population of Mourning Doves around Honouliuli seems to be persisting; 24 were counted on the Waipio C.B.C. 5 Jan (RM, MM). Ten Marianas Swiftlets (Endangered) were counted at Halawa Valley, Oahu near their only known nest site in the Region (SM).

PASSERINES

Eleven Black-rumped Waxbills at Big Island



This nice shot of a first-cycle Glaucous Gull at Kawaiee on Kauai Island 25 January 2008 clearly shows the translucent primaries and heavy, bicolored bill that help distinguish this species. Photograph by Jim Denny.



Glaucous-winged Gulls are regular in the Hawaiian Islands, but most are first-cycle birds. This adult at Kawaiee on Kauai Island 29 January was a rare find. Photograph by Jim Denny.

Country Club, Hawaii 25 Jan (RD, ES) represented an unusually high count. Common Waxbills seem to be spreading beyond urban areas at Kailua Hawaii; there were 30 at Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii 1 Jan (RD). I received few reports of native forest birds from Kauai. Several Kauai Elepaio and a few Kauai Amakihi were found at Kokee 14 Jan–21 Feb (DL). Other native species were hard to find. A few Anianiau were at Kokee 14 Jan, but only single birds were found later (DL). The sole report of Akekee was of one at Kokee 21 Feb (DL). Reports of native forest birds at Oahu were also very sparse. Ten each Oahu Elepaio (Endangered) were counted on Christmas counts at Honolulu 16 Dec (SM, KP) and Wai-pio 5 Jan (LBr, JK et al.), and another was found along Kuliouou Trail 14 Jan (PD, BF, SW). Waikamoi was closed all season for eradication of feral ungulates, but good numbers of Maui Amakihi, Apapane, and Iiwi were found nearby at Hosmer Grove Campground 22 Dec (WC) and 16–17 Feb (JPe), with up to 3 Maui Alauahios observed (WC, JPe) and an Akohekohe (Endangered) noted 16 Feb (JPe). In contrast to the trend elsewhere, reports of

native forest birds on Hawaii have increased, thanks to attention shown by tour groups and individuals. Observers had good success finding Palila (Endangered) in the Puu Laau area all winter (DL, BR, HFT, m.ob.), with 26 there 29 Jan (BR). Up to 3 Akiapolaau (Endangered) were seen regularly in e. Hawaii (HFT, BR), and Hawaii Creepers and Akepa (both Endangered) were seen less often but in greater numbers (HFT, BR, DL); these two species were reported mainly at Hakalau, with a high counts of 10 Hawaii Creepers 21 Jan (HFT) and 20 Akepa 20 & 31 Jan (HFT). One or 2 Hawaii Creepers were reported farther s. 9 Dec–13 Jan (BR). Up to 3 Akepa were found along Powerline Rd. 10 & 17 Jan (BR).

Contributors cited: Marianne Ainley, Lorraine Beham, David Bremer, Leah Bremer (LBr), Bethan Buchanan, Steve Burkson, Les Chibana, William Clark, Reg David, Jim Denny, Ar-leone Dibben-Young, Peter Donaldson, Wendy Dotson, Darren Dowell, Dave Eshbaugh, Jean Fujikawa, Bob Funston, Caroline Garrett, Ronald Haupt, Hawaii Forest & Trail (HFT), Joanne & Paule Hirose, Guy Hughes, Nigel Jackett, Jack Jeffrey, Betty Joao, Claudia Kamiyama, Pauline Kawamata, Jon Knopp, David Kuhn, Shaleigh Kwok, Cindy Lee, Dan Lindsay, Sabrina Luecht, Mike May, Richard May, Steve Mosher, Brigid Mulloy, Ari Nguyen, Amara Nguyen, Pauline Nguyen, Mike Nishimoto, Myrna Odom (MOb), Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Jim Pea (JPe), Eric Pilger, Kurt Pohlman, John Polhemus, Brent Quarles, Debbie Quarles, Brooks Rownd, Doug Runde, William Sarbello, Anne Scofield, Forest & Kim Starr, Ed Strong, Kyoko Takayama, Darrah Thomas, Porter Turnbull, U.S.F.W.S. Midway Staff (FMS), Eric VanderWerf, Michael VanNorman, Ann Viets, Michael Walther, Megan Westervelt (MWe), Lynette Williams, Shane Woolbright, Lindsay Young, Brenda Zaun. ☺

Peter Donaldson, 2375 Ahakapu Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782, (pdnldsn.bird@mac.com)

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Value of perennial archiving of data received through the *North American Birds* regional reporting system: Examples from the Baja California Peninsula

RICHARD A. ERICKSON, LSA ASSOCIATES, 20 EXECUTIVE PARK, SUITE 200, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92614 (EMAIL: RICHARD.ERICKSON@LSA-ASSOC.COM)

ROBERT A. HAMILTON, 316 MONROVIA AVENUE, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90803 (EMAIL: ROBB@RAHAMILTON.COM)

ROBERTO CARMONA, DEPARTAMENTO DE BIOLOGÍA MARINA, UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, APARTADO POSTAL 19-B, LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO (EMAIL: BEAUTY@UABCS.MX)

GORGONIO RUIZ-CAMPOS, FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS, UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BAJA CALIFORNIA, APARTADO POSTAL 233, ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, 22800, MEXICO; U.S. MAILING ADDRESS: PMB 064, P.O. BOX 189003, CORONADO, CALIFORNIA 92178-9003 (EMAIL: GRUIZ@UABC.MX)

ZACHARY A. HENDERSON, LSA ASSOCIATES, 20 EXECUTIVE PARK, SUITE 200, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92614 (EMAIL: ZAC.HENDERSON@LSA-ASSOC.COM)

Abstract

Many bird-monitoring schemes are in place in North America, and probably even more are ongoing in Europe. One continent-wide program that counters the typically rigid structure of most others is the regional reporting system established for the journal *North American Birds*. Five species from the Baja California Peninsula are used to show the system's potential: Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). With standardization and automation of data submission protocols, we suggest that the existing reporting system could evolve into an even more invaluable resource for bird conservation and its many stakeholders.

Brief History

Beginning in 1917, quarterly summaries of bird observations from selected populated regions were published in the National Audubon Society's publication *Bird-Lore*. These summaries were later published in *Audubon Magazine* and supplements. By 1947, the regional reports had expanded enough to form the core of a new publication, *Audubon Field Notes*. The name of the journal changed over the years (*American Birds*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, *Field Notes*), coverage of the United States and southern Canada became complete, and responsibility for publication of the journal transferred to the American Birding Association in 1997. By 2002, regions covering the entire continent were in place.

The Process

North America and the Hawaiian Islands are divided into 35 regions, each overseen by one or more regional editors. Each season, regional editors receive and vet reports from an ever-changing group of contributors. From these reports, the regional editors prepare a written summary for quarterly publication. Regional editors have great flexibility in what they publish, but rarities, range expansions and contractions, early arrivals and late departures, periodic irruptions by certain species, and obvi-



Map 1. Range contraction of Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) on the Baja California Peninsula. Historical records (open symbols) stretched the length of the peninsula, but recent ones (colored symbols; beginning in winter 2000-2001) are restricted to central Baja California (state).



Map 2. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) colonization of the Baja California Peninsula. This Old World species first appeared in the Mexicali Valley in 2001, after having spread westward across the southern United States. Toeholds for the species soon appeared in the northwest and mid-peninsula, and by 2006 most of the peninsula had become part of the species' range.

ous population trends are covered most consistently. The journal publishes over 1000 photographs annually, mostly images documenting rarities or highlighting seasonal phenomena. The journal editor and associates edit all reports for consistency and accuracy.

Program Strengths

The *North American Birds* regional reporting system is unique in its combination of geographic scope, openness to all contributors, acceptance of reports of essentially any size or type related to bird status and distribution, vetting of reports by qualified regional editors, and most importantly, regular feedback and encouragement via quarterly reports that include complete acknowledgment of contributors in print. This interaction with contributors allows regional editors to nudge birders and others to report certain species or issues more completely, to look at things differently, or to visit certain areas more often. Rather than constraining observers to more formal monitoring regimes, this program recognizes that much valuable information can be gleaned from the uncoordinated efforts of multitudes of observers doing whatever it is that interests them most.

Examples from the Baja California Peninsula Region

North American Birds regional coverage for the Baja California Peninsula began in August 2000, fortuitously just at the cut-off period for a review of the peninsula's birds published in 2001 (*Birds of the Baja California Peninsula: Status, Distribution, and Taxonomy*, edited by R. A. Erickson



Map 3. Distribution of the endangered Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) on the Baja California Peninsula. Open symbols mark locations first reported before 1 August 2000 (start of regional coverage in *North American Birds*), colored symbols those reported since. Squares indicate breeding sites, circles denote winter sites, and Xs mark migrant or extralimital sites. The subspecies *pusillus* occurs in the northwest and *arizonae* in the Río Colorado area, but the affinities of breeding birds in the Vizcaino Desert are unknown. Wintering birds are primarily *pusillus*, with *arizonae* also collected. At least one bird of an eastern subspecies (*bellii* or *medius*) has been photographed in winter as well.

and S. N. G. Howell. *Monographs in Field Ornithology* No. 3, American Birding Association). Since that time, observations from more than 300 observers have been archived in a database of approximately 18,500 records and summarized in quarterly reports in *North American Birds*.

Maps 1-5 and Table 1 (pp. 328-331) exemplify the kind of data harvested since 2000. They refer to an expanding native species (Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*), an expanding exotic species (Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*), and three species of conservation concern (Mountain Plover, *Charadrius montanus*; Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*; and Tricolored Blackbird, *Agelaius tricolor*). Information gathered on Belding's Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis beldingi*) was presented elsewhere by Erickson, Hamilton, and S. G. Mlodinow (*Bird Conservation International* 18: 219-228, 2008). Although the overall range of the grackle has changed little, there has been considerable infilling, including new nesting locations. The spread of the collared-dove has been much more dramatic, as the species was unrecorded on the peninsula through 2000. After making an initial leap to the mid-peninsula in 2003, it appears the species made another significant push southward in 2006. The overall patterns of distribution for Tricolored Blackbird and Bell's Vireo were already apparent in 2000, but subsequent observations have established a number of new localities. Likewise, the distribution of Mountain Plover had been previously mapped, but recent observations of this threatened species show only a shadow of the former range.



Map 4. Distribution of Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) in Baja California. Open symbols mark locations first reported before 1 August 2000 (start of regional coverage in *North American Birds*), colored symbols those reported since. Squares indicate breeding sites; circles denote winter sites. The species is generally restricted to the California District.



Map 5. Distribution of Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) on the Baja California Peninsula. Open symbols mark locations first reported before 1 August 2000 (start of regional coverage in *North American Birds*), colored symbols those reported since. Squares indicate breeding sites; circles mark migrant and winter sites. The species was first reported in adjacent southeastern California in 1964, and it is now abundant in the Mexicali Valley. The first northwestern record was in 1986, and breeding was confirmed there in 1999. Mid-peninsular records followed in 1995, with nesting in 2005. Settled portions of the Cape District should prove to be very hospitable for the first arrivals there.

Opportunities and Suggestions

As important as the published seasonal summaries are, we do not believe they are the most important feature available through the *North American Birds* reporting system. The value of the system is enhanced enormously by the consistent archiving of selected observations in a standard electronic database, a practice common in many if not all regions in the network. Such a database allows the easy evaluation of trends over the long run which, in turn, feeds back into the communication between editors and contributors. Examining such a database should be among the first things done by regulatory agencies contemplating changes to the legal status of any bird species within the region. Researchers, managers, authors of regional or state-level monographs on bird status and distribution, and other stakeholders will also find much of value in the database.

The upkeep of a regional database is very time-consuming for a small editorial group, and for some regions, particularly heavily populated regions, the volume of reporting has made such an enterprise impractical. While a relative wilderness such as the Baja California Peninsula currently produces a manageable number of records, it has become clear in other regions that a paradigm shift in how data are gathered, archived, and analyzed is overdue.

Certain tools that would work across the continent would greatly facilitate the reporting and archiving process. Rather than each region developing its own way, standardized methods and centralized technical support would be of great value. Ideally, contributors could access

a regional site online, linked to all other regions, where information specific to their region would be available. This might include regional and sub-regional checklists, information identifying species of particular concern locally, a photographic gallery, maps, and even some kind of access to the master database itself. Certainly, the speed of communication between editors and observers would be facilitated and likewise the relationship between editors and database managers. Regional editors would need only confirm their acceptance of the information conveyed before formally adding it to the database. Even without a web-based system, contributions following a standard format could save regional editors considerable time.

Money would be required to make all of this happen as envisioned here. In addition to the mostly up-front cost to develop and maintain an interactive web site, the issue of regional editor compensation must be mentioned. Because of the considerable amount of time and effort required to maintain a database, those devoting the time to it may legitimately consider the database proprietary. To make information fully accessible to the public, the public ought to invest in the program. The online archiving program eBird, launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, has continued to grow in popularity and value and could serve as ideal repository for birding data on a regional level, particularly when a state-level or re-

gional portal is available, as for many areas now. A close coordination of the *North American Birds* reporting network and the eBird group began several years ago, with many of the *North American Birds* regional editors serving as volunteer consultants with eBird. The journal has actively promoted the electronic database since its inception, while the managers of eBird have provided quarterly spreadsheets of data to the journal's regional editors. As this relationship is refined in years to come, we envision a streamlining of data flow and analytical tools among editors, database managers, and contributors, one that may revolutionize both the journal and eBird—and indeed, how birders come to view their contributions to field ornithology altogether.

The *North American Birds* reporting and archiving system will never replace the species-specific and habitat-specific monitoring done by many other means, but they should serve as an important complement. The amount of information on all species that is potentially available from the army of to-

day's recreational birders cannot be matched in any other way, and it is painful to contemplate the amount of useful information otherwise lost in the ephemeral field notes of countless observers. It is hard to imagine a more efficient use of scarce bird conservation dollars than through the ongoing public or institutional sponsorship of the electronic archival of bird observations described above.

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Table 1. Sample from the Excel database maintained for the North American Birds Baja California Peninsula region [Bell's Vireo].

Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	4-8 Sep 2000	9	4	2000	Cataviña	RAE, RAH, SNHG, PP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	4 Sep 2000	9	4	2000	Arroyo Santo Dominquito	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	5 Sep 2000	9	5	2000	Rancho San José de Castro	RAH, RAE, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	8 Sep 2000	9	8	2000	El Rosario	RAE, RAH, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	15	15 singing males	24 May 2001	5	24	2001	lower Río Santo Tomás	RAH, RAE, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	singing males	25 May 2001	5	25	2001	Río Guadalupe estuary	RAE, RAH, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	5		18 Jul 2001	7	18	2001	Las Cabras Creek at Rancho San José	DSC, RAH, MSM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		19 Jul 2001	7	19	2001	Valle San Telmo (~1.7–2.6 miles upstream from Hiway 1)	DSC, RAH, MSM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	6	incl. 1 juv.	20 Jul 2001	7	20	2001	lower Río Santo Tomás	DSC, RAH, MSM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing male	17 Apr 2002	4	17	2002	Morelos Dam, Algodones	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing (presumably a migrant)	20 Apr 2002	4	20	2002	Maneadero Plain, La Grulla	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4	singing	21 Apr 2002	4	21	2002	Río Santo Domingo (above the mission)	RAE, RAH, OH-H, EP+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	singing above the campground	22 Apr 2002	4	22	2002	lower Río Santo Tomás	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing male	22 Apr 2002	4	22	2002	Santo Tomás Winery	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		8 May 2002	5	8	2002	Río Colorado 1 km downstream of railroad bridge	fide OH-H	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		9 May 2002	5	9	2002	Río Colorado 2 km downstream of Vado Carranza	fide OH-H	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	26	26 singing males	31 May 2002	5	31	2002	Río Santo Domingo (above the mission)	RAE, RAH, ERL	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	31 May 2002	5	31	2002	El Rosario	RAE, ERL	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	pair	1 Jun 2002	6	1	2002	Santo Tomás Winery	RAE, ERL	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	5	4 singing	1 Jun 2002	6	1	2002	lower Río Santo Tomás	RAE, RAH, ERL	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1-3	singing	1 Jun 2002	6	1	2002	Ensenada, Presa Emilio López Zamora	RAE, RAH, ERL	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	21 Jun 2002	6	21	2002	Tijuana, Presa Rodriguez	RAE, PU	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	21 Jun 2002	6	21	2002	Rio de las Palmas, La Mesa (?)	RAE, PU	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	6 Jul 2002	7	6	2002	Ensenada, Presa Emilio López Zamora	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		19 Sep 2002	9	19	2002	Santa Inés	MSM, HGDs, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	29 May 2003	5	29	2003	mesquites west of Algodones	MJI, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	possible	29 May 2003	5	29	2003	Río Colorado, near Ejido Chiapas	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	silent adult	3 Jul 2003	7	3	2003	Río Guadalupe estuary	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	h.o.	12 Jul 2003	7	12	2003	lower Río San Telmo (1.6 and 3.2 miles above hiway 1)	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	juv.	13 Jul 2003	7	13	2003	La Cienega (5.6 mi below La Corona de Arriba)	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	14	incl. 4 juvs.	14 Jul 2003	7	14	2003	Rancho San José	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		14 Jul 2003	7	14	2003	mile 3.4, San Telmo road	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	<i>pusillus</i>	19-Dec-03	12	19	2003	N Maneadero Plain	DSC, PP	†DSC
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	6+		27-Mar-04	3	27	2004	Arroyo San Carlos, above Baja Country Club	DSC	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	singing	6-Apr-04	4	6	2004	La Misión bridge	RAE, MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing below the bridge	13-Apr-04	4	13	2004	La Misión	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	singing above the bridge	13-Apr-04	4	13	2004	La Misión	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	16-Apr-04	4	16	2004	El Descanso	SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2		17-Apr-04	4	17	2004	lower Río San Telmo	Larry Sansone	[ph. L. Sansone]
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	18-19 Apr 2004	4	18	2004	Cataviña, S wash	Larry Sansone	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	13-Apr-04	4	30	2004	Cataviña, S wash	Larry Sansone	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		7-May-04	5	7	2004	Río Guadalupe estuary	L.A. Comrack, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	11	males	8-May-04	5	8	2004	lower Río Santo Tomás	L.A. Comrack, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	male	9-May-04	5	9	2004	Rancho Agua Caliente, E of Ensenada	L.A. Comrack, SNHG	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		10-Jun-04	6	10	2004	Río Guadalupe estuary	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	pair plus singing male	10-Jun-04	6	10	2004	Lagunita El Ciprés	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	pair	10-Jun-04	6	10	2004	Arroyo San Carlos, above Baja Country Club	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4	singing males	11-Jun-04	6	11	2004	Ensenada, Presa Emilio López Zamora	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4	incl. 2 juv.	11-Jul-04	7	11	2004	km 65.5, hiway 3, S of Tecate	MSM, DSC, A. Harper	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	12	males	12-Jul-04	7	12	2004	Arroyo San Carlos, above Baja Country Club	MSM, DSC, A. Harper	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	13-Jul-04	7	13	2004	above San Antonio Necua	MSM, DSC, A. Harper	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	5	incl. FL	16-Jul-04	7	16	2004	Misión San Borja	RC, JAC	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	possibly last year's wintering bird	24-Oct-04	10	24	2004	N Maneadero Plain	SGM, KAR, BT	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4	pair plus 2 males	1-Apr-05	4	1	2005	Ensenada, Presa Emilio López Zamora	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	19	"...occupied territories in both the desert and the arroyo. They have a definite greenish cast to their wings and back with yellow-olive on the flanks."	3-Apr-05	4	3	2005	vic. Santa Inés (1 mile stretch of arroyo)	KLW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	singing	3-Apr-05	4	3	2005	km 16, just S of Punta Prieta	KLW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	x	singing	8-Apr-05	4	8	2005	road to Ejido Eréndira	KLW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	pair plus male	19-May-05	5	19	2005	Cañon de Guadalupe	DSC, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing adj. upstream pond	21-Jun-05	6	21	2005	La Misión	RAE, MJB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3	singing males	21-Jun-05	6	21	2005	Ensenada, Presa Emilio López Zamora	RAE, MJB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	21-Jun-05	6	21	2005	Maneadero Plain stop ponds	RAE, MJB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	4-Sep-05	9	4	2005	Santo Tomás Winery	MJB, B.L. Carlson, M.A. Matson	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	4-Sep-05	9	4	2005	lower Río San Telmo	MJB, B.L. Carlson, M.A. Matson	

Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		4-Sep-05	9	4	2005	Maneadero Plain	MJB, B.L. Carlson, M.A. Matson	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	<i>pusillus</i>	20-Dec-05	12	20	2005	E Maneadero Plain	TJM, MJB, RAE, PAG, D. Gant, AG-A, EDZH	ph. MJB
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		6-May-06	5	6	2006	Ensenada to San Quintin, Km 72	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2		7-May-06	5	7	2006	Rancho El Descanso	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	12		7-May-06	5	7	2006	Misión San Fernando	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4		7-May-06	5	7	2006	Cataviña	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		8-May-06	5	8	2006	above San Telmo, 100m	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2		8-May-06	5	8	2006	above San Telmo, 200m	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	15		8-May-06	5	8	2006	Rancho San José, 600m	REW	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	6-Jun-06	6	6	2006	Rosarito Creek	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2		24-Jul-06	7	24	2006	Arroyo Santo Domingo	RAE, MJI, TM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		24-Jul-06	7	24	2006	Arroyo San Telmo, just below San Telmo	RAE, MJI, TM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		24-Jul-06	7	24	2006	Rancho Melling	RAE, MJI, TM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2-3	singing	9-Sep-06	9	9	2006	El Rosario	SNGH, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		9-Sep-06	9	9	2006	Santa Inés	SNGH, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	10-Sep-06	9	10	2006	Cataviña	RAH, SNGH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	2	<i>pusillus</i>	29-Dec-06	12	29	2006	Maneadero Plain	fide MJB, EM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	"eastern"	29-30 Dec	12	29	2006	Maneadero Plain	DSC, MSM	ph. †DSC
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	4		27-Apr-07	4	27	2007	Arroyo San Juan de Dios at Lagunita del Saucito near the junction with Arroyo El Cartabon	GR-C+	ph. GR-C
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	singing	5-Jun-07	6	5	2007	km 109, ~B km north of Ejido Bonfil	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	5		5-Jun-07	6	5	2007	Misión San Fernando	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	3		6-Jun-07	6	6	2007	El Rosario	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		6-Jun-07	6	6	2007	Arroyo San Telmo, ~3 miles above the highway	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	HY	27-Aug-07	8	27	2007	Santo Tomás Winery	MJB, P.A. Ginsburg, WTH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		27-Aug-07	8	27	2007	Rio Santo Tomás estuary	MJB, P.A. Ginsburg, WTH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		27-Aug-07	8	27	2007	Maneadero Plain slop ponds	MJB, P.A. Ginsburg, WTH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1		10-Oct-07	10	10	2007	El Rosario	MSM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BC	S*, #	1	MJB: "eastern", "identified by bright yellow/green plumage, pale lores, and inconspicuous wing bar"	14-15 Dec 07	12	14	2007	E Maneadero Plain	PAG, WF; MJB, RAE, PP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #									
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		24 Oct 2001	10	24	2001	El Triunfo	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	3		30 Oct 2001	10	30	2001	Todos Santos	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		23 Mar 2002	1	23	2002	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		25 Oct 2002	10	29	2002	San Antonio	SGM, BT	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		29 Oct 2002	10	29	2002	Miraflores	SGM, BT	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		26 Jan 2003	1	29	2003	Caduaño	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		26 Jan 2003	1	26	2003	Miraflores	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		26 Jan 2003	1	26	2003	San Bartolo	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		28 Jan 2003	1	28	2003	Las Cuevas	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	x	more than on past trips	16-24 Jan 2004	1	16	2004	La Paz south	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		5-Jan-04	1	5	2004	12 km N San José del Cabo	Dennis R. Paulson	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	singing	9-Jan-04	1	9	2004	road to San Antonio de la Sierra (near Hwy. 1), Arroyo Cholla	Dennis R. Paulson	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	6		18-Jan-04	1	18	2004	Miraflores	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		18-Jan-04	1	18	2004	San José del Cabo	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		19-Jan-04	1	19	2004	Santiago	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		19-Jan-04	1	19	2004	Agua Caliente	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		20-Jan-04	1	20	2004	Las Cuevas	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		21-Jan-04	1	21	2004	Lagunas de Chametla	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		22-Jan-04	1	22	2004	Todos Santos	SGM, CB	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2	singing	6-Feb-04	2	6	2004	Rancho El Sauzal (west of Santa Agueda and Santa Rosalia)	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		7-Feb-04	2	7	2004	San Javier	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		10-Feb-04	2	10	2004	Ciudad Constitución	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	4		x Feb 2004	2	x	2004	Todos Santos	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	4		x Feb 2004	2	x	2004	Agua Caliente/Santiago	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	6		x Feb 2004	2	x	2004	Caduaño/Miraflores	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		x Feb 2004	2	x	2004	in or near the oak belt of the Sierra de la Laguna biosphere reserve	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	x	flowering acacia is best	x Feb 2004	2	x	2004	Cape District	JEP, DVP	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		8-Mar-04	3	B	2004	road to San Antonio de la Sierra (km 9.0)	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		10-Jun-04	6	10	2004	Isla San Francisco	JAC, Andrea Cuéllar	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		30-Jul-04	7	30	2004	Estero San José del Cabo	MDC+	

Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		27-Aug-04	8	27	2004	Estero San José del Cabo	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		22-Jan-05	1	22	2005	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		22-Jan-05	1	22	2005	Caduaño	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	3		23-Jan-05	1	23	2005	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		24-Jan-05	1	24	2005	Santiago	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		24-Jan-05	1	24	2005	Agua Caliente	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		21-Mar-05	3	21	2005	Estero San José del Cabo	MB, OJ, D. Vander Pluym	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		1-Oct-05	10	1	2005	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		1-Oct-05	10	1	2005	Caduaño	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	8 total		1-9 Oct 05	10	1	2005	Miraflores	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	3		3-Oct-05	10	3	2005	Agua Caliente	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		3-Oct-05	10	3	2005	Santiago	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		4-Oct-05	10	4	2005	Las Cuevas	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		4-Oct-05	10	4	2005	San Bartolo	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	7		6-Oct-05	10	6	2005	Todos Santos	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		6-Oct-05	10	6	2005	El Pescadero	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		6-Oct-05	10	6	2005	Rancho San Miguel	SNHG, RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		7-Oct-05	10	7	2005	Bahía Tortugas	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		7-Oct-05	10	7	2005	Chametla	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		8-Oct-05	10	8	2005	road to San Antonio de la Sierra	SGM, Charlie Wright, Ryan Shaw	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	3		19-Jan-06	1	19	2006	Santa Anita	DSC	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		21-22 Jan 06	1	21	2006	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		22-Jan-06	1	22	2006	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		23-Jan-06	1	23	2006	Santiago	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		24-Jan-06	1	24	2006	Las Cuevas marsh	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		27-Jan-06	1	27	2006	Todos Santos	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	singing	17-Mar-06	1	17	2006	Estero San José del Cabo	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	singing	20-Mar-06	3	10	2006	road to San Antonio de la Sierra, km 22.5 wash	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		25-Mar-06	1	25	2006	Todos Santos	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	x	more than on winter trips	Sep/Oct 06	?	x	2006	8 Cape District locations	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	6		Sep/Oct 06	9	x	2006	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		Sep/Oct 06	9	x	2006	Ejido Calle, vic. El Gaspareno	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		Sep/Oct 06	9	x	2006	San Bartolo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		Sep/Oct 06	?	x	2006	Agua Caliente	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		Sep/Oct 06	9	x	2006	Rancho Guamuchilar area	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		Sep/Oct 06	?	x	2006	Lagunas de Chametla	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	3+		Sep/Oct 06	9	x	2006	Santiago	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	7+		Sep/Oct 06	?	x	2006	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	possible arizonae	26-Sep-06	?	26	2006	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		7-Oct-06	10	1	2006	Todos Santos	MJB+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	some singing	9-Oct-06	10	9	2006	Caduaño	MJB+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		9-Oct-06	10	9	2006	Todos Santos	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		9-Oct-06	10	9	2006	Alianza Campo, just S of Ciudad Constitución	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		10-Oct-06	10	10	2006	Santiago, zoo	MJB+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	9		11-Oct-06	10	17	2006	Miraflores	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		11-Oct-06	10	11	2006	Rancho San Dionisio	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		11-Oct-06	10	11	2006	Santiago, zoo	RAH, RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		11-Oct-06	10	11	2006	Punta los Mangles	RAE	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		12-Oct-06	10	12	2006	Estero San José del Cabo	RAE, RAH	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		6-Jan-07	1	6	2007	Miraflores	SGM+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		6-Jan-07	1	6	2007	Caduaño	SGM+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		7-Jan-07	1	7	2007	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		9-Jan-07	1	9	2007	La Ribera	SGM+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		12-Jan-07	1	12	2007	El Centenario (tanque)	SGM+	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	singing	3-Mar-07	3	3	2007	El Centenario (tank)	MJI	ph. MJI

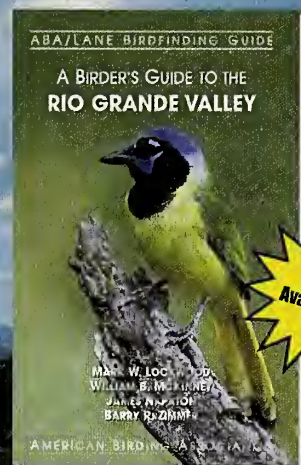
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		4-Mar-07	3	4	2007	Todos Santos	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		5-Mar-07	3	5	2007	Las Cuevas	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2		6-Mar-07	3	6	2007	Estero San José del Cabo	MJI	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		27-Mar-07	3	27	2007	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		1-Dec-07	12	1	2007	Miraflores	JSE, R. Fogg	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		23-Dec-07	12	23	2007	Migraño	DSC	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1	"some yellow wash on flanks and greenish wash on back.... I have noticed in past winter trips that the phenotype seems somewhat bimodal, with a grouping of exceptionally gray birds and those with some color. Only a few in between."	12-Jan-08	1	12	2008	Miraflores	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	2	"one with some yellow wash on flanks and greenish wash on back"	15-Jan-08	1	15	2008	Santiago	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		15-Jan-08	1	15	2008	El Rosario	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		15-Mar-08	3	15	2008	Caduaño	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	5		16-17 Mar 08	3	16	2008	Estero San José del Cabo	SGM	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	BCS	R*, #	1		18-Mar-08	3	18	2008	Santiago	SGM	

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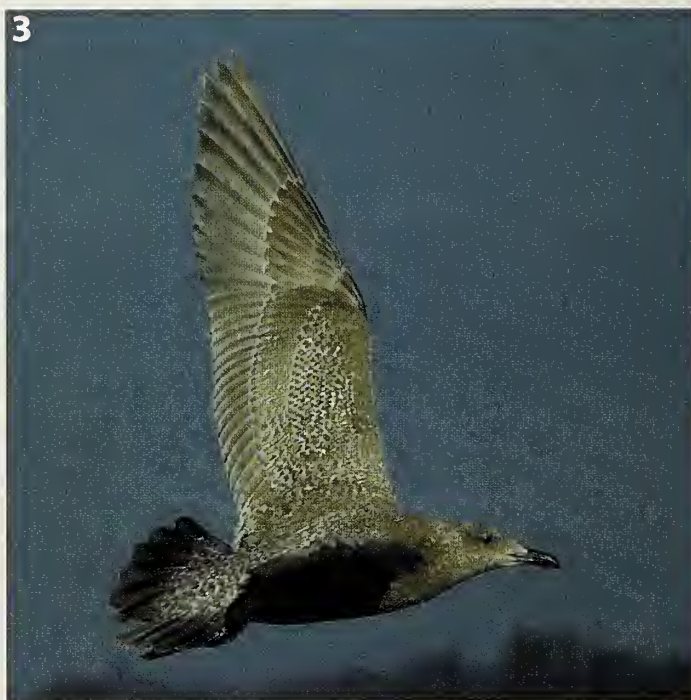


by Mark Lockwood, William McKinney,
James Paton, and Barry Zimmer
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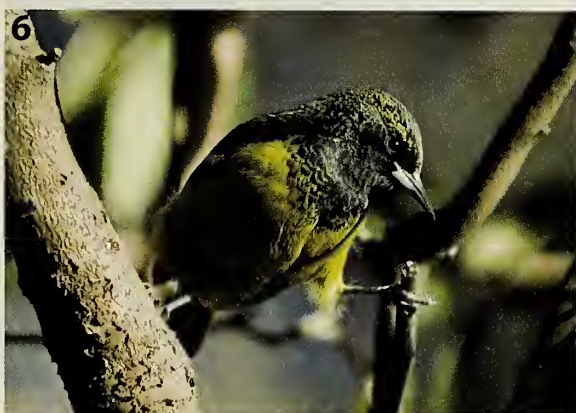
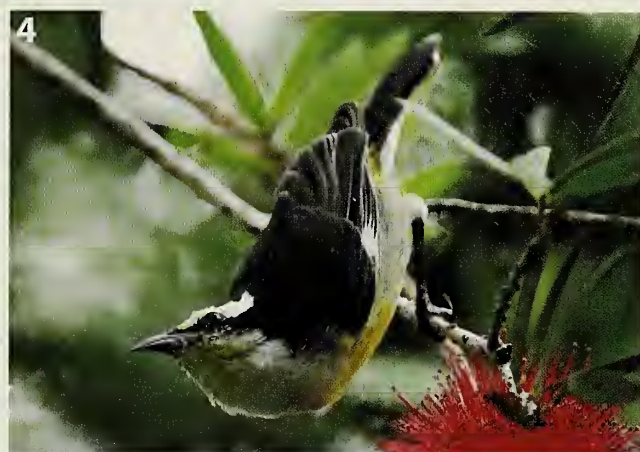
1 • Anna's Hummingbirds were found at several locations in Alaska in winter 2007-2008. This adult male was nicely photographed at Sitka 26 January. *Photograph by M. Goff.*

2 • Newfoundland's first Bullock's Oriole (here 19 December 2007) received royal treatment and gourmet fare at a St. John's feeder—only to be killed by an American Robin in January. *Photograph by Bruce Mactovish.*

3 • This first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama represents Alabama's eighth record of the species. It was seen by a number of observers during its stay 3-24 (here 13) January 2008. *Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.*

4 • This adult male hummingbird (bird on left; adult male Black-chinned Hummingbird on right for comparison) captured at River Ridge near Metairie, upper Jefferson Parish, Louisiana 27 January 2008 may prove to be an intergeneric hybrid, possibly a Black-chinned Hummingbird × Lucifer Hummingbird. *Photograph by Joan Garvey.*

5 • An amazing three Cave Swallows were found in Arizona this winter. This one, an immature found at Gilbert, Arizona 2-21 (here 18) February 2008, was the most viewed and best documented. There are only five previous records for the state. *Photograph by Brendon Grice.*



1 • This subadult Masked Booby visited Islas Los Coronados, Baja California 19 January 2008. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

2 • The vagrant highlight of the Ensenada Christmas Bird Count was this immature eastern Bell's Vireo on the Maneadero Plain, Baja California 14 December 2007. Photograph by Wes Fritz.

3 • A long-distance austral migrant from South America, this Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantiootrocristatus*) wandered to Cerro Azul, Panama for at least the first four days in December 2007 (here 4 December), thus establishing the first North American record for the species. Photograph by Kit Larsen.

4 • This adult Bananaquit remained at Hollywood, Broward County, Florida 12 (here 19) February 2008 through the end of the month. Photograph by Angel Abreu.

5 • Utah's fourth confirmed Chestnut-collared Longspur turned up this season at Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area, Davis County on the afternoon of 21 (here 22) December 2007. Photograph by Poul Higgins.

6 • A first-year male Scott's Oriole discovered by Alice Deutsch in Union Square Park, New York, New York on 4 December 2007 lingered well into the new year and was nicely documented on 23 January 2008 (here). Photograph by Ardith Bondi.



1 • Connecticut's first state record of Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher was at Osbornedale State Park 1-7 (here 1) December 2007. Some evidence suggests it may have been a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. *Photograph by Mark Szantyr.*

2 • New Mexico's ninth Rufous-backed Robin was west of Caballo Lake along Las Animas Creek, Sierra County 21 (here 26) January into March 2008. Eight of New Mexico's nine records have been from the Rio Grande Valley. *Photograph by Robert H. Doster.*

3 • This adult male Smew, which visited a small pond in a private front yard east of Standard, Tuolumne County 5 (here 10) January through 13 February 2008, was almost certainly the same individual that was enjoyed by many about 8 kilometers away near Soulsbyville in January 2007. *Photograph by Pamela Blair.*

4 • This Hooded Merganser $\times$ Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid returned to spend a fifth winter at Lake Merritt, Oakland, Alameda County, California (here 16 December 2007). *Photograph by Doug Greenberg.*

5 • This Ivory Gull, a first for South Dakota and the second for the Northern Great Plains region, was enjoyed by many 16-26 (here 26) February 2008 at Oahe Dam near Pierre. *Photograph by Doug Backlund.*





1 • Three Arctic Loons were found in the Oregon & Washington region, bringing the Regional all-time total to approximately nine records. The exceptionally cooperative bird graced Brownsmead, Clatsop County, Oregon from 9 (here 16) December 2007 through February 2008, providing Oregon's third record. Note the relatively stout bill and steep forehead compared to Pacific Loon, giving this bird a Common-Loon-like appearance. *Photograph by Noah Strycker.*

2 • As of 1 December 2007, no one in the birding or ornithological communities knew that Jack Snipe had been recorded in Oregon. However, two had been—both shot by the same hunter near Florence, Lane County, Oregon, one in 2004 and one in 2007. This bird, shown with a Wilson's Snipe shot on the same day, was taken on 20 October 2004. *Photograph by Greg Stender.*

3 • Greg Stender shot this Jack Snipe on 16 November 2007 near Florence, Lane County, Oregon—three years and three weeks after he shot his first at the same location. The solid crown and extensive facial markings differ markedly from Wilson's Snipe. *Photograph by Greg Stender.*

4 • This Townsend's Solitaire appeared 31 December 2007 and was last seen 6 April (here 17 January) 2008 on Île Notre-Dame in Montréal, Québec. *Photograph by Pierre Bannon.*

5 • Northern Hawk Owls have been annual of late in Washington, including the state's first two nesting records during summer and fall 2007. This cooperative bird, near Coulee Dam, Grant County 1-6 (here 3) January 2008, delighted many observers. *Photograph by Tom Munson.*



1 • Iowa's first Black-tailed Gull was this adult present 17 (here 18) November through 6 December 2007 at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County. The bird was unusually cooperative during its visit and was seen by hundreds of birders. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

2 • This juvenile Wood Stork was a surprising find 3-7 (here 6) October 2007 at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County, Iowa. It represented just the second record for the state and one of very few for the Iowa & Missouri region and the Upper Midwest. *Photograph by Jay Gilliam.*

3 • This stunning adult male Fork-tailed Flycatcher, a first for Iowa, was present 20-23 (here 23) November 2007 in Tama County. Its disappearance coincided with a blizzard, and the bird almost certainly perished. *Photograph by Jay Gilliam.*

4 • While not the first Bullock's Oriole for Nova Scotia, this individual was the only one known to have survived winter in the Atlantic Provinces region, here shown 11 November 2007 at Canso. *Photograph by Tom Kavanaugh.*

5 • Exceedingly rare in New Brunswick, with only eight records since 1949, this Western Meadowlark at Cap-Pele 6 December 2007 unfortunately did not tarry to be admired. *Photograph by Stuart Tingley.*

6 • This female Bullock's Oriole provided Prince Edward Island with its first confirmed occurrence 29 November–20 December 2007 at Stratford, near Charlottetown (shown 3 December 2007). *Photograph by Dwaine Oakley.*

7 • This juvenile Yellow-billed Loon, the third recorded in Iowa, was photographed on the first day of its 28-30 November 2007 stay at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County. *Photograph by Aaron Brees.*

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Apr 22-27, 2009 – Texas Hill Country (convention pre-trip) — The Edwards Plateau is known to birders primarily for Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, but spring in central Texas offers more as well. Woodland-lined streams yield eastern birds, while the drier southwestern edge yields Chihuahuan and Tamaulipan species. Contact Karen Turner at Field Guides, www.fieldguides.com, fieldguides@fieldguides.com, (800) 728-4953.

May 4-9, 2009 – Lower Rio Grande Valley & South Coast (convention post-trip) — After exploring stops in Corpus, it is off to the Valley with a stop at Baffin Bay. RGV specialties like Plain Chachalaca, Ringed Kingfisher, Altamira Oriole, Hook-billed Kite, and Brown Jay will be the perfect compliment to our Coastal Bend start. Contact Steve Shunk at Paradise Birding, www.paradisebirding.com, steve@paradisebirding.com, (541) 408-1753.

May 4-10, 2009 – Upper Texas Coast (convention post-trip) — Take in the coastal beaches and marshes for huge numbers of waders, terns, and shorebirds, to the famed migrant traps of High Island, then inland to the Pineywoods. The Upper Texas Coast offers huge single day species counts. Birding America, www.birding-america.com, info@birding-america.com, (800) 744-6150.

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